British consul, 24 others killed in Turkey explosions

Story in World, PAGE A10

California heroes are Pacquiao fans

By Nimfa Rueda
Contributor

GLENDALE, California—More than a dozen Glendale firefighters, who have been hailed as California heroes, gate-crashed a luncheon in honor

CALIFORNIA/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Miriam's son found dead

ALEXANDER Santiago, 21, the younger son of ex-Sen. Miriam Santiago and her husband, Narciso Santiago Jr., died of a gunshot wound in the head last night. The young Santiago was reportedly found in his room at the family home in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, shortly before 8 p.m. and was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival. Jun Santiago initially told the Inquirer the shooting was an accident. *C. Esguerra, J. Esplanada and T. Santos*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Friday, November 21, 2003 ★★★ 98 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 346 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Top kidnap gang busted

No. 1 in PNP order of battle shot dead

By Christian V. Esguerra, Tonette Orejas and TJ Burgonio

A DAY after solving the Betti Sy kidnap-slay, the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) busted the country's top kidnap-for-ransom syndicate in a shoot-out yesterday in Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Five people, including gang leader Dr. Roberto Obeles Yap and a policeman, were killed. Five others were wounded during the fire fight that broke out at 5:45 a.m. between Yap's Obeles group and operatives from Naktaf and the Philippine National Police in Central Luzon.

Director Ricardo de Leon, the PNP spokesperson, described the bust as the "crowning glory" of the government's all-out war against kidnapping syndicates. He said the Obeles gang had long been on top of the PNP order of battle.

"It's a good day for law enforcement," said anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes, who called a briefing shortly after he arrived in Camp Aguinaldo from a visit to the site of the clash in Dinalupihan. "This goes to show that the government is unrelenting and is effective in its fight against kidnapping."

But Reyes, who is also Naktaf chief, said the Obeles group was not involved in the abduction of Sy, a Coca-Cola executive, who was found dead in Parañaque on Tuesday morning, a day after she was snatched.

"No, we don't think so," Reyes said, when asked if the Obeles gang carried out Sy's kidnapping.

TOP/ A20

White House evacuated due to 'emergency'

WASHINGTON — Parts of the White House were evacuated briefly Thursday after a plane flew within eight kilometers of restricted airspace around the complex, officials said.

"It's heading southeast away from the White House and the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) is attempting to communicate with it," Secret Service spokeswoman Jean Mitchell said.

There was no official evacuation, she said. But White House staff members did leave the presidential residence's West Wing for a time Thursday morning, then were allowed to return.

An aide to President George W. Bush said that staffers were told to go to a nearby street but were allowed to go back to their desks a short time later.

The President was traveling in Britain at the time. Many of his top aides also were on the trip and were not in the building.

"The threat level was never raised," Mitchell said, adding that the FAA is investigating.

On Nov. 10, Air Force fighter jets scrambled to intercept a private plane that flew too close to the White House. *AP*

AND THE WINNER IS ... the 18th Advertising Congress now ongoing at Club Camp John Hay in Baguio City. To signal its opening on Thursday, overall chair Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III raises the hand of President Macapagal. So, it isn't what you think. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ROBERTO Obeles Yap, head of one of the country's most notorious kidnap-for-ransom gangs, is sprawled where he was shot dead by pursuing policemen in Dinalupihan, Bataan. From left, Isafp chief Tirso Danga, Avelino Razon, Naktaf Chair Angelo Reyes and Central Luzon Director Chief Supt. Vidal Querol. JOAN BONDOC

'G-factor' crucial to Kabayan's decision to run as GMA's veep

By Cynthia D. Balana, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE "G-FACTOR" will play a crucial role in Sen. Noli de Castro's campaign plans, the ruling Lakas party's spokesperson claimed yesterday.

Presidential adviser Heherson Alvarez was referring to Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, chair of the giant ABS-CBN television network and employer of the TV host-turned-senator.

Alvarez said De Castro could just be waiting for the "G-factor" as well as other prospective financial supporters before making any announcement.

In the Senate, however, De Castro said the Lopez family had no influence over his political career. "Nothing. In my broadcasting career, (the Lopez family has) 100 percent influence (on me). But in politics, I don't know if it is even one percent. As I always say when it comes to politics, the only one who can influence me is my family and myself."

But Senate President Franklin Drilon, who the other day said a Macapagal-De Castro ticket appeared to be a done deal, simply smiled when reporters told him that De Castro had denied any such deal.

Drilon pointed to the fact that the Lopezes owned big but financially distressed companies.

"It's a done deal but I just want to know what is the deal," Drilon insisted, before calling for greater transparency.

"You know Maynilad is facing difficulties, Meralco is facing difficulties," Drilon said. "We would like transparency because public interest should not be part of the deal." Maynilad Water and the Manila Electric Co. are partly-owned and fully managed by the Lopez family.

Alvarez noted that De Castro was indebted to the Lopezes more than any other political supporters because many members of De Castro's family, including his wife, were employed by the network.

He admitted that some people

'G-FACTOR'/ A21

Michael Jackson wanted for child molestation

SANTA BARBARA, California—Pop superstar Michael Jackson on Wednesday became a wanted man after US authorities ordered him to surrender to police to face multiple counts of child molestation.

A judge had issued an arrest warrant for Jackson late Tuesday on multiple counts of child molestation following a three-month investigation.

A deadline for Jackson to give himself up and hand over his passport has been set, police said during a news conference one day after a raid on the singer's Neverland Ranch in California. Police declined to reveal the deadline.

Bail was set at $3 million with 10 percent of the amount to be paid when the reclusive 45-year-old "King of Pop" surrenders, at which time he will be fingerprinted and have his mug shot taken.

The accusations against Jackson reignited suspicions that have been swirling around him since he was accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy 10 years ago.

He was never charged for that offense because the youngster refused to testify. Jackson reportedly settled that case out of court with the boy's family for more than $25 million. He, however, had

MICHAEL/ A21

Guingona also rises as he leads 'Bangon!' movement

ALTHOUGH he has said he's definitely out of the electoral race in May, don't count out Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

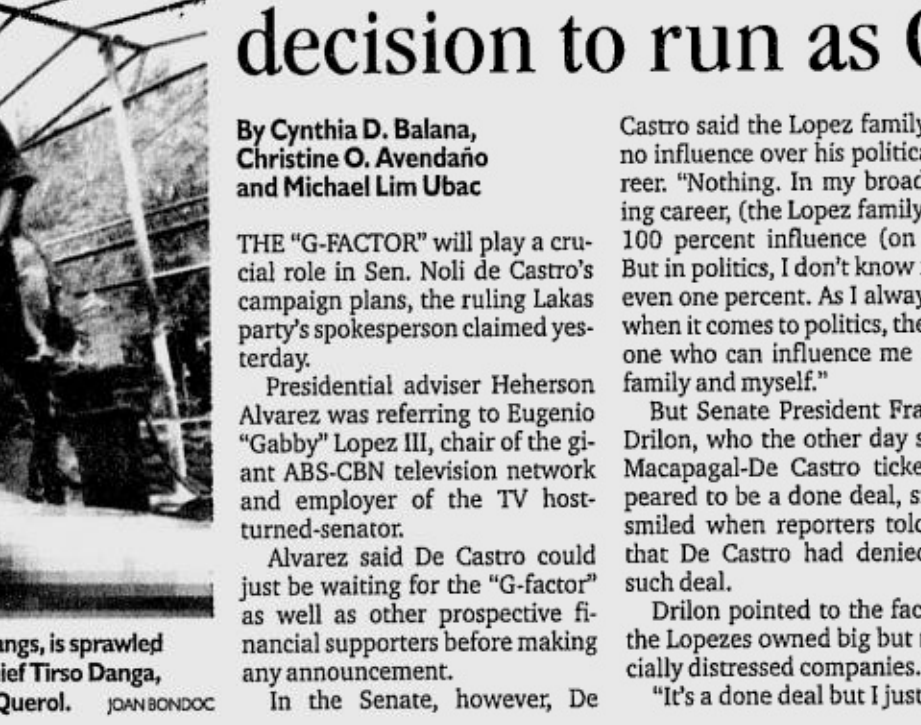
Guingona has been asked by leaders of more than 30 multi-sectoral mass-based organizations to lead the "Bangon!" (Rise Up) movement, which was launched yesterday morning at Club Filipino's Kalayaan Hall in San Juan, Metro Manila attended by about 1,000 people.

Newspaper columnist Teodoro Benigno, a former press secretary and one of the movement's key organizers, read the Bangon manifesto. A video presentation portrayed the state of the country where "people are in despair" with "scam after scam, scandal after scandal—so shocking that the nation has become callous," Guingona said.

In his speech, Guingona said the action plan of Bangon, billed as a non-partisan, nationalist movement aimed at pursuing reforms and fighting public corruption and social inequities, include:

- A campaign to abolish the pork bar-

GUINGONA/ A21



THE WATCHDOG Bangon! movement launched by Vice President Guingona on Thursday with key organizers, from left, Teddy Benigno and Representatives Satur Ocampo and Etta Rosales, seeks to implement government reforms. PDI PHOTO/ERIK ARAZAS

Enough space for archbishop and his dog

By Blanche S. Rivera

ALL HE asked for was enough space for himself and his dog, a German Shepherd named Ever.

Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales will be installed as the new Archbishop of Manila today, but much of the attention will be focused not only on the solemn rites at the Manila Cathedral, but on his new home: the Arzobispado de Manila in Intramuros.

It will be the first time in more than 30 years that the Archbishop of Manila will both hold office in Intramuros and reside there.

Since his nomination, the historic office in Manila has undergone renovation. The wallpaper was changed, phone lines were installed, and chairs, desks and office equipment were readied.

The fourth floor of the Arzobispado, where Jaime Cardinal Sin had a private

ENOUGH/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/21/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Catarman	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Ombudsman won't touch Gringo's case

THE OMBUDSMAN yesterday refused to take over from the justice department the investigation of the coup d'état charges against opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan who is accused of leading the July 27 failed coup.

In a manifestation before the Supreme Court yesterday, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said doing so would be a violation of the Ombudsman's charter and the rules on criminal procedure.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo sustained Marcelo's stand, saying that the justice department cannot yield its authority to conduct a preliminary investigation of coup d'état charges.

Marcelo and Benipayo both argued that the offense that Honasan has been charged with was "not committed while in the performance of official functions as a senator" and so did not fall under the Ombudman's primary jurisdiction.

The high court is hearing a petition from Honasan to order the Department of Justice to transfer the investigation of the coup d'état charges against him to the Ombudsman.

On Tuesday, Honasan indicated he would be willing to take up President Macapagal-Arroyo's reconciliation offer if the charges against him are dropped.

The high tribunal told the Ombudsman and DOJ officials to confer and decide on who between them should handle the case and also ordered the Solicitor General to file a memorandum and a summary of arguments on the case.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who initially said the DOJ would be willing to turn over the investigation to the Ombudsman, later said the department would do so only if the SC rules in favor of Honasan.

"The Office of the Ombudsman is of the position that it cannot legally, i.e. without any legal ground, wrest authority from the DOJ and unilaterally take over the investigation of the case against petitioner Gregorio B. Honasan II," Marcelo told the high court.

He said that while his office had the same investigative authority as the DOJ, taking over the case cannot be done without violating "the basic rules on concurrence of authority [the Ombudsman's charter] and the ... Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure."

In a compliance letter to the high court, Benipayo said that the panel of DOJ prosecutors investigating the case also cannot yield the case to the Ombudsman.

He said that giving the case to the Ombudsman would be "tantamount to admitting" that the offense committed was done "in relation to his [Honasan's] office."

Benipayo and Marcelo said that this would create a "bad and tragic precedent" for the other criminal cases that the DOJ and the Ombudsman are handling.

"At the mere unverified and unsubstantiated allegation or speculation of bias and prejudice, respondents in criminal investigations would flock to this Honorable Court and demand a similar arrangement as that of (the) petitioner," said Marcelo.

He said the Supreme Court could very well find itself inundated with "similar premature petitions seeking for relief based on incomplete presentation and appreciation of facts." *Philip C. Tubeza*

Danding's pick: None of the above

By Carlito Pablo

HERE'S another indication action star Fernando Poe Jr. may yet run for President.

If the elections were to be held today, the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. would not support any of the three declared presidential candidates so far, namely, President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Education Secretary Raul Roco and Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

"Given the present field of candidates, it's none of the above," said Rep. Francis Escudero (Sorsogon), spokesperson of the NPC, the second largest political party in the House of Representatives. Cojuangco is a founder of the NPC and until recently was thought to be its standard-bearer in the 2004 presidential elections.

"We're waiting for somebody else to come out and throw his hat into the ring," Escudero added.

Told that this position might be seen as waiting for the still reluctant Poe to declare his candidacy, Escudero said: "They can read it like that."

"We want to see the entire picture," he said. "In the next several days, the field would be crystal clear."

Escudero stopped short of saying the NPC was set to break up its alliance with the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, whose standard-bearer in 2004 will be Ms Macapagal.

A Lakas insider conceded that the tightly-knit NPC, which counts on the strong loyalties of congressmen, governors and mayors, could provide the swing vote that would make or break a presidential aspirant.

"The NPC can be considered to be holding the trump card," said Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), a staunch Macapagal supporter.

Regarding what was happening in the NPC, Pichay said Cojuangco, chair of the food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., was in the process of getting the "consensus of individual party members on whom to support next year."

Pichay acknowledged the possibility of Lakas and the NPC going their separate ways in 2004.

"The President had declared her intention to run for election way back on Oct. 4 but Mr. Cojuangco has not said a word in public in support of her plan," Pichay noted.

Erap still won't risk surgery here

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada yesterday said that even if he opted not to go abroad but remained here to care for his ailing mother, he still would not risk undergoing surgery under local doctors for fear of becoming paralyzed.

But to make sure Estrada would not be able to leave for the United States to have his arthritic knees operated on, the Ombudsman and the Special Prosecutor yesterday filed a memorandum before the Sandiganbayan objecting to the detained ex-President's request to go abroad.

They asked the Sandiganbayan to stick to its earlier ruling which denied Estrada's motion to travel, even as they likened him to a "spoiled brat" who wants everything done his way.

"Estrada is just like a spoiled brat who would not take his medicine unless his mother bought him an expensive toy and who, when his condition worsens, blames his mother, the doctor, the nanny ... all, except himself," the prosecutors said in their 18-page memorandum.

But in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Estrada cited two allegedly bungled knee operations performed in the country which convinced him that local doctors could not adequately address his knee problem.

He said these involved Philippine Ambassador to the US Alberto del Rosario and the wife of his former Cabinet secretary Jaime Policarpio. In both cases, Estrada said the patients had to go to the US to have their knee operations corrected since they were not satisfied with the work of the local doctors. *Armand N. Nocum*

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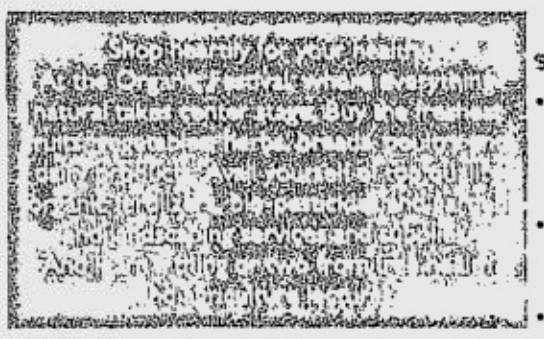

SCHEDULE OF FREE LECTURES:

- **Oct. 25, 10am-12nn**
  Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides and Their Effects on Health and Environment
  Dr. Romeo Quijano, UP College of Medicine
- **Oct. 26, 10am-12nn**
  Organic Standards
  Rogelio Bantiles, Phil. Organic Guarantee, Inc.
- **Nov. 8, 10am-12nn**
  Organic Raw Vegetables and Fruit Juices — Their Therapeutic Uses
  Alexis Bantiles, Alliance of Volunteers in Dev't. Foundation
- **Nov. 9, 10am-12nn**
  What Is GMO or Genetically Modified Organisms?
  Dr. Pamela Fernandez, UP Los Baños
- **Nov. 15, 10am-12nn**
  Status of Organic Trade in the Philippines and Worldwide Demand
  Teresita Osyson, Dept. of Trade and Industry
- **Nov. 16, 10am-12nn**
  Organic Inspection and Certification
  Rogelio Bantiles, Phil. Organic Guarantee, Inc.

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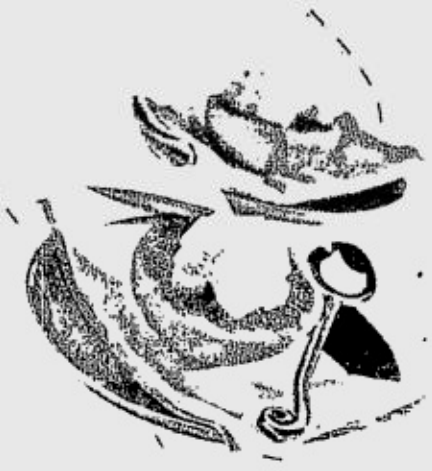


Exhibit Coverage

Fresh and Processed Food · Marine Products · Organic and Natural Food · Food Specialties · Table and Kitchen Accessories · Allied Products and Services

Show Highlights

COOK Magazine's The Trendy Award
The country's most innovative products vie for recognition in a prestigious competition that rewards outstanding creativity, originality, and functionality.

Flairtending Competition
Fun and excitement is the name of the game as top bartenders take the ultimate test of their skills -- mixing special drinks using *lambanog* and *basi* while juggling, dancing, and simply expressing their own stylish flair.

Ice Carving Bar
A rare opportunity to watch highly skilled ice carvers at work. Two teams headed by Chef Gary Basa of the Heritage Hotel Manila create "chilly" sculptural masterpieces.

Trendiest Salad Dressing Competition
Parent and child tandems create new and delicious variations of traditional salad dressings in a challenging test of creativity and culinary skills.

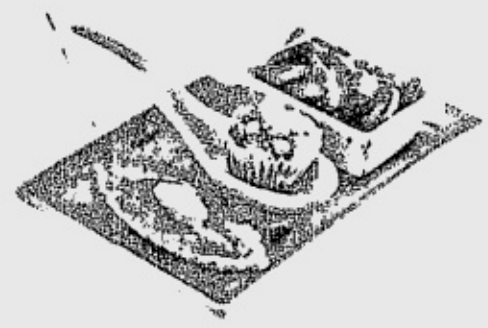
Queso de Bola Platter Competition
Dress up your cheese! Professionals and amateurs team up to create ingenious *queso de bola* presentations.

Cooking Demos
Expand and enliven your repertoire of recipes by taking pointers from seasoned experts. Fresh recipes and interesting food ideas will be served!

Apprentice for a Day
Select students get the chance to polish their gastronomic skills as renowned chefs Fern Aracama of *Uva* and Seiji Kamura of *Juan Mirò* take turns in a hands-on demonstration/lecture on culinary techniques.

Special Settings

Region 8: Partner Region
Savor the taste of the delicacies of Eastern Visayas (Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar). The historic territory offers a wide array of distinct and appetizing delicacies such as *moron* (chocolate rice roll), and smoked *alumahan* (striped mackerel), among others.



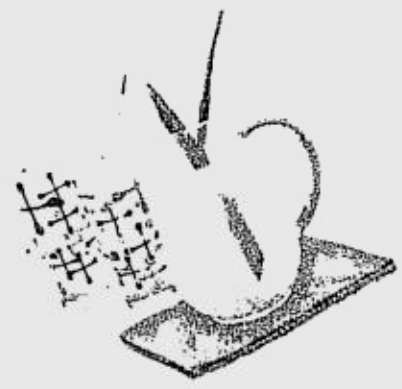
Mango Lifestyle Exhibition
Explore the latest breakthroughs related to one of the country's premium exports, the Philippine Super Mango. Luna Design's Joel Enriquez presents innovative packaging ideas and an exceptional line of mango-inspired tableware, accessories, and home furnishings.

Organic Pavilion
Discover the variety of organically certified and soon-to-be-organically certified food items that are now available in the local market..

Seafood Gallery
Rediscover the infinite variety of the country's marine life. Tuna, shrimp, abalone, and clam are just some of the abundant seafood products that the Philippines' bountiful waters have to offer.

Kape Isla Coffee Bar
An invigorating selection of choice brews headlined by the robust homegrown *barako* coffee that is growing in popularity through the efforts of the National Coffee Development Board (NCDB).

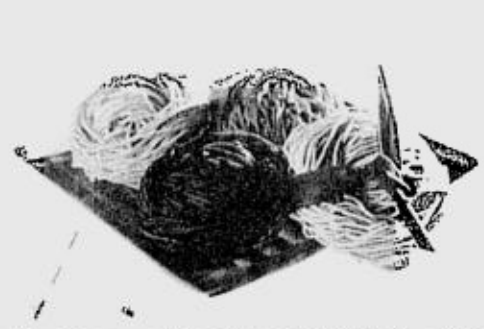
Asian Garden Restaurant
Taste and enjoy the rich flavors of Asia. Embark on a memorable culinary journey via the Asian Garden Restaurant featuring the signature dishes of the region.



Schedule of Events

21 NOVEMBER FRIDAY
SPECIAL EVENTS AND COOKING DEMOS: Food Magazine · PHILFOODEX · Nestle & Taipan · Partner Region · RFM · Silver Swan · Moonbake · Partner Region · Queso de Bola Platter Competition **SEMINARS:** Coconut Oil: The New Health Food of the 21st Century · Apprentice for a Day · AIM - Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE)

22 NOVEMBER SATURDAY
SPECIAL EVENTS AND COOKING DEMOS: INFOMAPP · Partner Region · Mega Fishing · Ice Bar Carving Exhibition · Flairtending Competition **SEMINARS:** History of China Fruit Marketing & Distribution · The Association's Role Under the WTO & FTA Regime · The China Fruit Import Market: Challenges & Opportunities · History and Operation of the Chinese Fruit Distribution Center · Present and Future Role of the Distribution Center under the WTO Regime · Exporting Food Products to Hawaii: The Challenges of Meeting the New USDA Standards · Basic Coffee Farming · Organic Certification · Bioterrorism Act (Philippine Trade Training Center)



23 NOVEMBER SUNDAY
SPECIAL EVENTS AND COOKING DEMOS: TGA Foods Corporation · Seafood Group · Trendiest Salad Dressing Competition · Tentay Food Sauces, Inc. · Marigold · Grandpa's Farm Foods · Moonbake Inc.
SEMINARS: Apprentice for a Day · Organic Coffee Seminar · Marketing of Philippine Mangoes in Belgium · Herb Cooking

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Nida's daughter told: Sue if you have the goods

By Philip C. Tubeza

SUE, if you've got the goods on him.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong yesterday advised former Sandiganbayan Justice Harriet Demetriou to file a formal complaint against the National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco if she had a case against him in the bungled extradition of Rod Strunk.

"She should file a formal complaint against Wycoco, the Department of Justice will act accordingly on it," Datumanong said.

Demetriou had called on Wycoco and Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez to resign after the government failed to have Strunk extradited from the United States. Strunk is the prime suspect in the killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca.

Demetriou is the lawyer of Blanca's only child, Kaye Torres.

Additionally, Demetriou said Datumanong should sanction Wycoco for gross negligence of duty and insubordination for allegedly delaying the submission of documents to the DOJ for which Datumanong had to write him a letter.

The documents would form part of the evidence the US court had asked for.

But Datumanong said Demetriou's call had "no basis" since both officials complied with all the documentary requirements in the case and submitted these on time.

Japanese start search for holdouts

A GROUP of researchers from Tokyo arrived yesterday to check on unconfirmed reports that a few Japanese soldiers were still hiding out in the jungles here more than half a century after World War II.

The group arrived in Manila and included two Japanese Imperial Army veterans who wore their old uniforms and three officials from Tokyo's ministry of health and labor, immigration officials said.

They are to check on the possibility of looking for surviving relatives of a former Japanese general and his men who allegedly once lived near a Manila suburb and pretended to be Filipinos.

"We have received information that a former Japanese soldier had lived in a village in the suburb of Manila, pretending to be a local resident, and the man apparently contacted a few Japanese still hiding in a jungle before he died in 1996," a ministry official said in Tokyo on Wednesday.

One of the Japanese veterans told reporters here that they would try to interview Yolita Buado, a 67-year-old Filipina who had earlier claimed she had married a certain General Yamakawa. *AFP*

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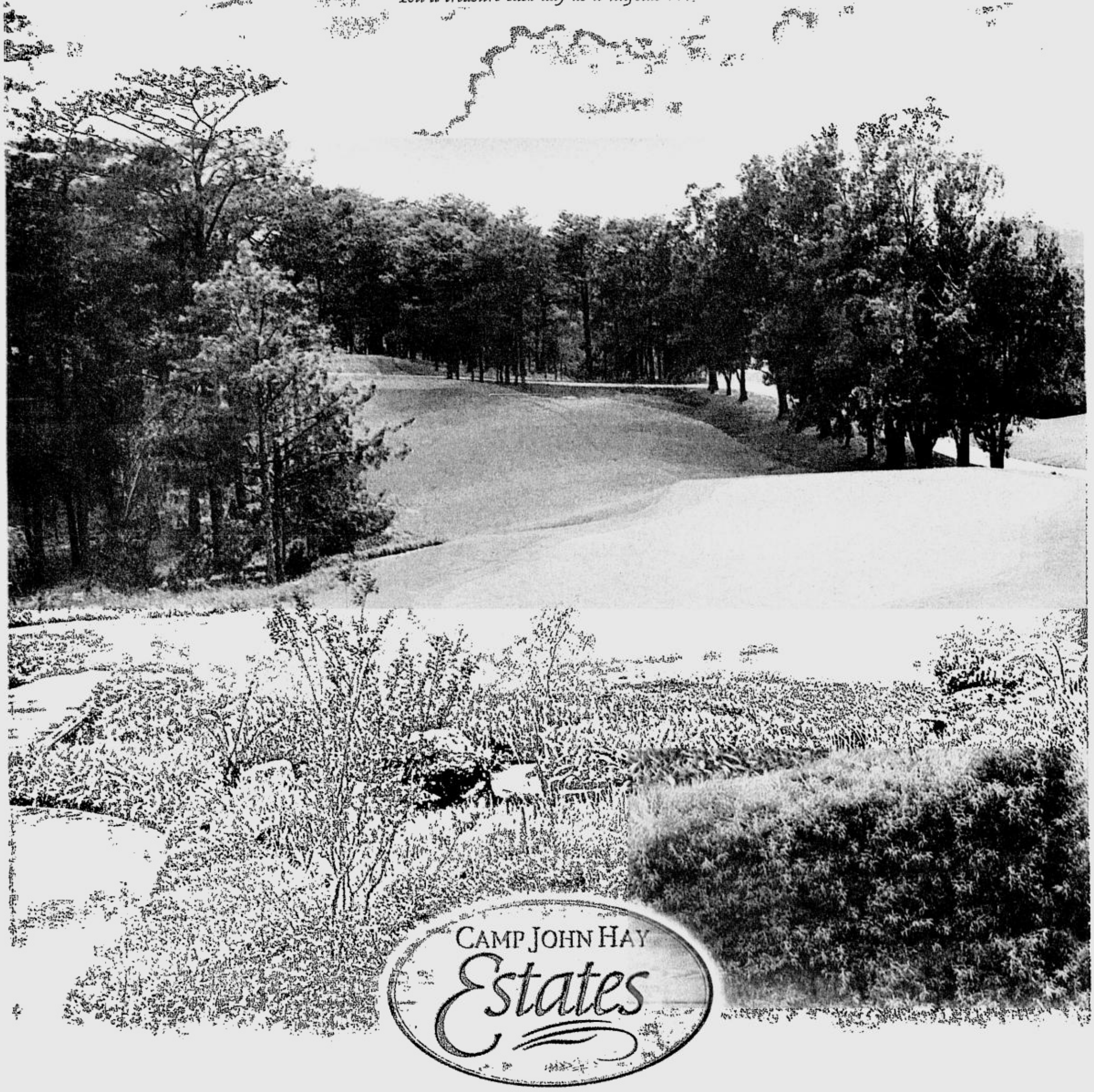

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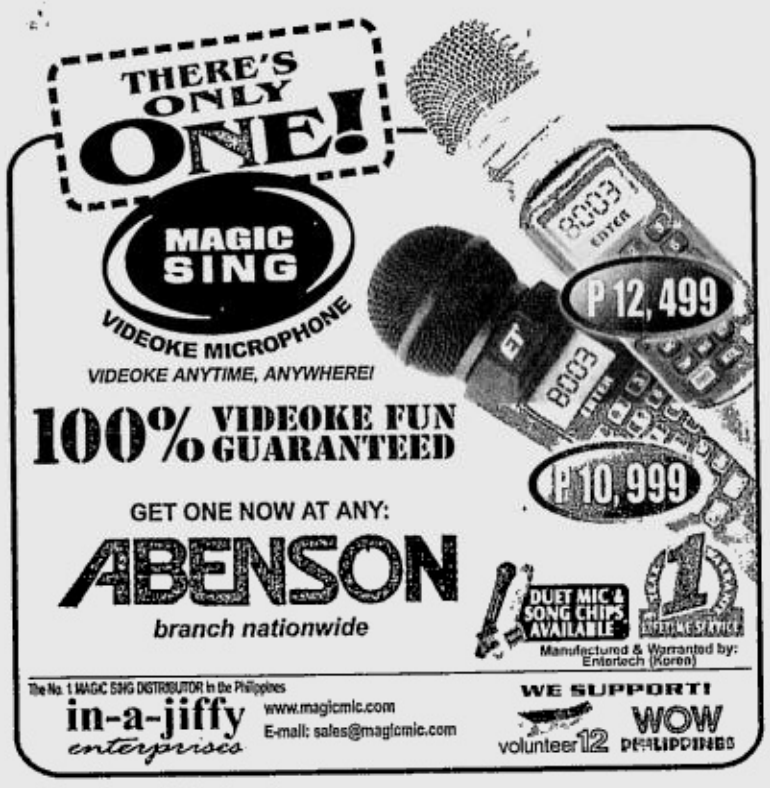


By Cynthia Balana

AFTER 12 hours of marathon debate, the House of Representatives approved yesterday the P5.227 billion supplemental budget for the holding of the national and local elections and the salary increases of soldiers for next year.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the supplemental budget was approved on the third and final reading while the proposed 2004 national budget would be passed on Monday.

"Even if we face delay in the enactment of the 2004 General Appropriations Act, the Commission on Elections [Comelec] preparations for the national and local elections next year will not be in jeopardy," De Venecia said.

Hours before the start of the plenary debate on Wednesday, De Venecia presided over an all-party caucus attended by the Nationalist People's Coalition led by Rep. Alfredo Maranon of Negros Occidental, the Liberal Party headed by Rep. Florencio Abad of Batanes, party-list groups led by Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, the Nacionalista Party led by Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, and the minority group led by Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo.

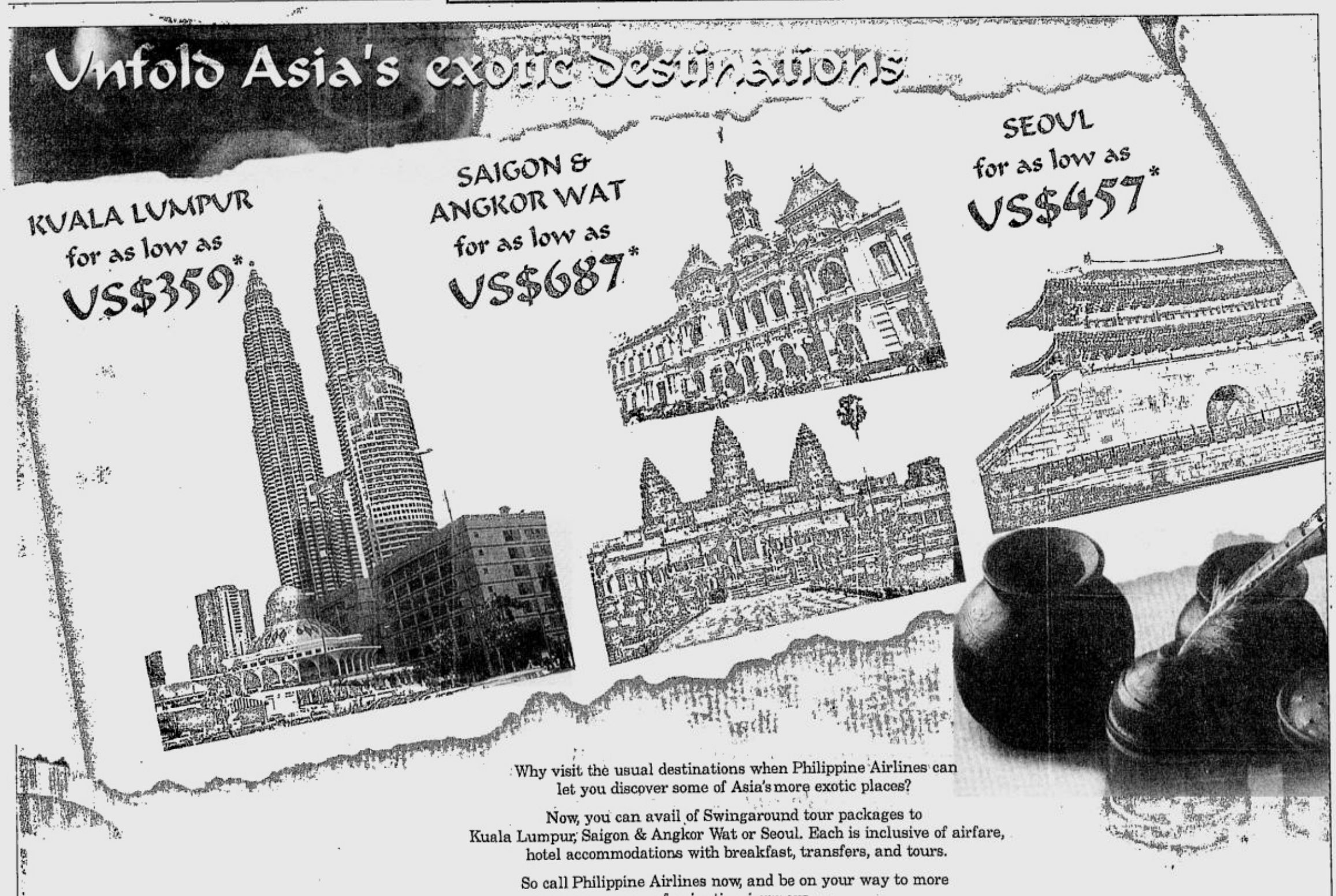
De Venecia said the caucus approved the ratification of the selective automation scheme for voting and the passage of the supplemental budget.

He said that congressmen hoped to finish the plenary debate on the budget next Monday. The session adjourned at 3 a.m.

Only the budgets of four departments and agencies of the government remained untackled in the plenary. These were the Department of Health, Department of Education, Office of the President and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

"We are 80 percent finished with the proposed national outlay," De Venecia said.

Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat said that the supplemental budget would be deducted from the national budget that would be approved on Monday.



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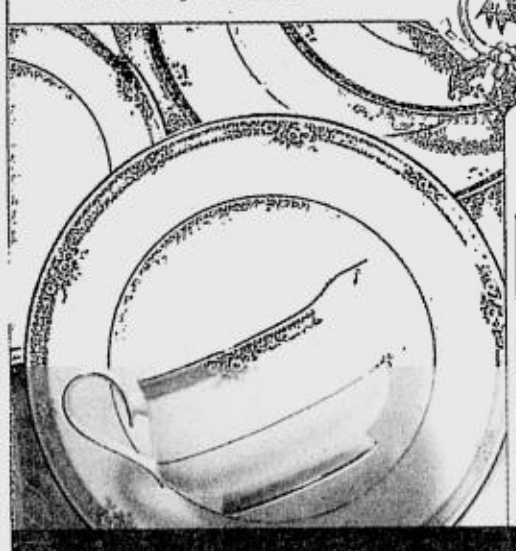

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Gov't set to charge Fraport

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing to file charges involving violations of the Anti-Dummy Law and falsification of documents against Fraport, the German-based partner in the Piatco consortium that built the disputed Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said the National Bureau of Investigation has started a preliminary investigation to determine if the German airport operator had breached the constitutional limit of 40 percent foreign ownership in joint ventures.

Calida said the NBI findings would then go to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

The government will use the documents that Fraport had submitted when it requested international arbitration of its ownership dispute with the Philippine government over the Naia 3 terminal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo voided the contracts awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Inc. (Piatco) to build and operate the almost-completed terminal, claiming that they contained onerous provisions that were unfavorable to the government.

This was followed by a Supreme Court decision six months later.

The German firm claimed to the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) that it "directly and indirectly owned 61.44 percent of Piatco."

Calida said Fraport officials face huge fines and jail terms if they are found to have violated the Anti-Dummy Law and falsified documents.

Private lawyer Jose Bernas who filed the case with the Supreme Court for the nullification of the Piatco contracts had asked the justice department to look into Fraport's possible violation of the Anti-Dummy Law, Calida said.

Bernas claimed that aside from the 61.44 percent of Piatco—valued at $425 million—that it admitted to owning, Fraport owned another 11.44 percent interest in Piatco through a $6 million loan it extended to the Cheng family, the firm's declared majority Filipino shareholder.

Bernas said that the total foreign interest in Piatco, including the 10 percent held by the Japan-based Nissho Iwai, would be pegged at 82.88 percent, or more than double the foreign equity ceiling prescribed by the Constitution.

"The resulting foreign equity portion in Piatco is too significant to ignore. No grandfathering or other corporate device can possibly be invoked to make Piatco's structure comply with the constitutional prohibition against foreign equity exceeding 40 percent," Bernas said in a letter to Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

Aside from equity contributions, Bernas said that Fraport and its facilities extended loans and technical support for the construction of the Naia 3.

Fraport has filed an arbitration case with the ICSID, the World Bank dispute settlement body, to recover the roughly $500 million it claimed to have spent for the construction of Naia 3.

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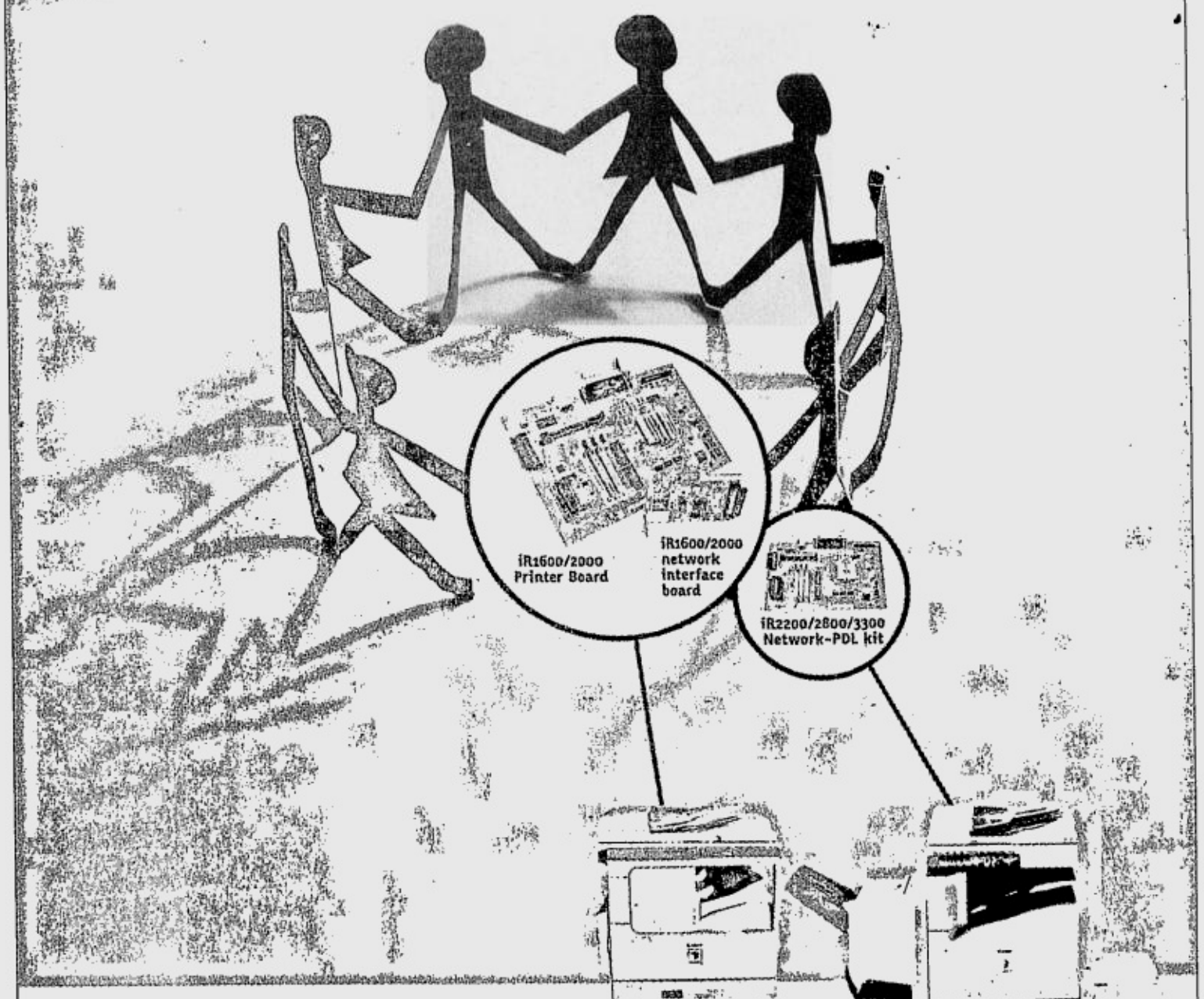

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Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the P5,000 bonus would be on top of the regular Christmas bonus given to government employees annually.

Saludo said the bonus was approved by the Cabinet during its last meeting.

Earlier, Malacañang declared Dec. 24 and 26 and Jan. 2 as special non-working days.

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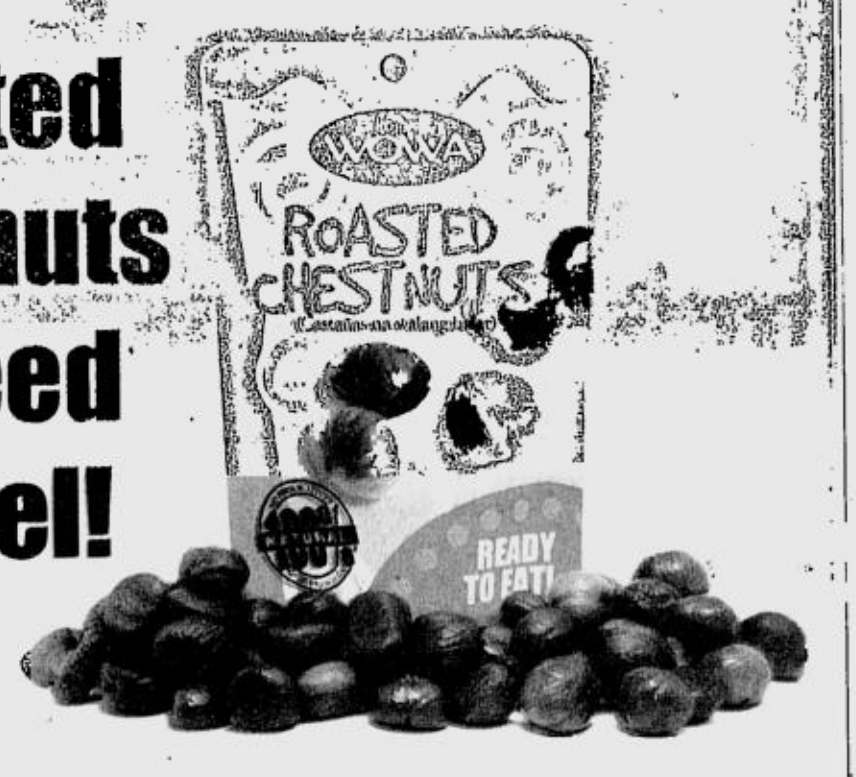

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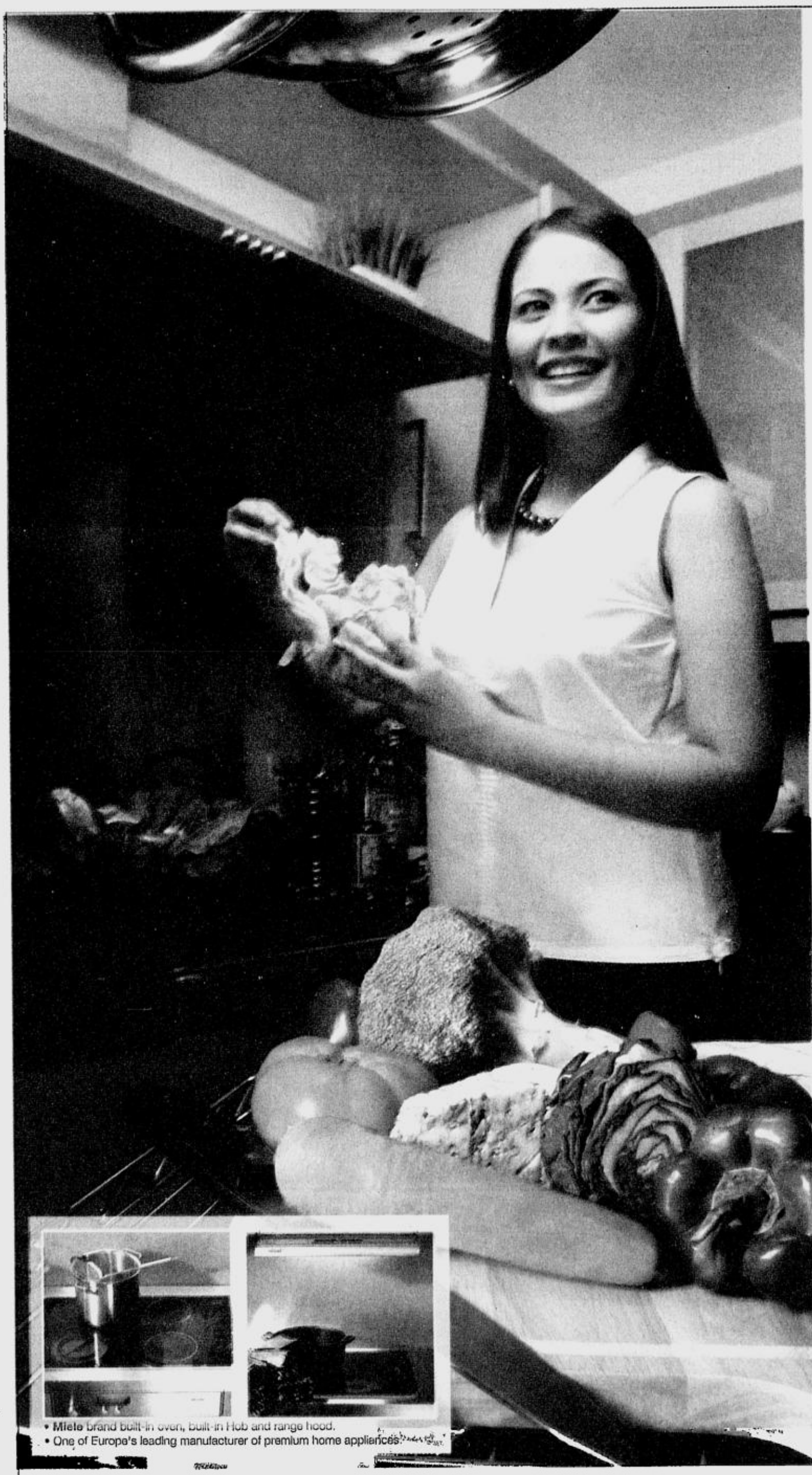

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

British consul, 24 others killed in Turkey explosions

ISTANBUL—Trucks packed with explosives blew up near the headquarters of the London-based HSBC bank and the British consulate here on Thursday, killing at least 25 people, including British consul general Roger Short, and wounding nearly 400 others, officials said.

All security forces were put on the highest alert level in Istanbul after the attack, which was blamed on al-Qaida, and Turkish military troops were deployed to stand guard in the city alongside police.

The bombings, which occurred five minutes apart at about 11 a.m., came days after two synagogue suicide bombings and coincided with the visit of US President George W. Bush to London.

"We see their utter contempt for innocent life. The terrorists hope to intimidate, to demoralize. They are not going to succeed," said Bush at a news conference with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw described the attacks as "clearly appalling acts of terrorism" and he suggested a link to the al-Qaida network.

"I'm afraid it has all the hallmarks of international terrorism practiced by al-Qaida," he said in London.

Straw said three or four British employees from the consulate had not reported to a roll call following the blasts. Consul General Short was initially reported missing, private NTV news channel said, after he had stepped into the consulate compound minutes before the explosion occurred.

The British consulate is located in the cramped historic Beyoglu district, a popular tourist destination with shops, bars, movie theaters and restaurants.

A man calling the semi-official Anatolia news agency claimed that al-Qaida and the local militant Islamic Great Eastern Raiders Front, or IBDA-C, jointly claimed responsibility for the attacks. *AP*

BUT IS IT BETTER THAN THE PILL?
Models show off the stick-on contraceptive patch during the launch of Evra, world's first stick-on contraceptive for women, Nov. 19 in Singapore. The patch is now available in Singapore. AFP

China: Use of force on Taiwan may be 'unavoidable'

BEIJING—Again, Taiwan's domestic politics have made Beijing angry. Again, mainland China's communist leadership menaces the island with terms like war and force. And again, people on both sides of the straits wonder whether it's just talk—or something more ominous.

Taiwan called for calm on Thursday, a day after a top Chinese official said the use of force might be "unavoidable" if the island's leaders pursue independence. "Threats of military force are not efficient in solving problems, threats of military force are not an option," said Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan's cabinet member in charge of relations with China.

"The government has to continue to observe mainland China's attitude, but China also has the responsibility to understand Taiwan's democratic process," she said.

China's heated rhetoric could be aimed at intimidating Taiwanese voters as they prepare for a presidential election in March. But it could also be directed at persuading the United States—Taiwan's chief, though unofficial, ally—to head off the island's increasingly maverick leader.

Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, running for reelection, has gained ground in the polls since proposing plans for a new constitution and a law on referendums that could eventually lead to a vote on independence.

Even Chen's opposition says it wants a new constitution, and Beijing appears to view the developments with increasing alarm. Taiwan is a self-ruling, democratic island that Beijing insists is part of Communist China and vows to retake by force if it declares independence. *AP*

US resigned to Shiite rule in Iraq, says NY Times

WASHINGTON—The United States is resigned that Iraq's majority Shiite population will likely dominate the interim government next year, but it is less concerned at the prospect, The New York Times said Thursday.

"Our basic position is that as we get to know more of Iraqi society, we're more comfortable with a democratic process, and if that emerges with a predominant Shiite role, so be it," an unnamed US official told the daily.

"There's been a steady education process here," the administration official added referring to dwindling US fears that a Shiite government might install an Iranian-influenced theocracy in Iraq.

Iraq's majority Shiite population, which predominantly inhabits the south, is not a monolithic bloc and not necessarily dominated by Tehran, US officials said.

The changing perception of Iraq's Shiite masses, they added, laid the groundwork for last week's decision to accelerate the timetable for self-government in Iraq.

Nevertheless, the officials said, the United States is taking steps to ensure that a Shiite-dominated government would respect religious freedom and minority rights.

It is also trying to reassure Iraq's neighbors such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Gulf states that a Shiite-governed Iraq would pose no threat to them by inflaming their own Shiite populations.

Some experts in Middle Eastern affairs cautioned, however, that most Iraqi Shiites want to give Islam official standing in any system they establish, and strongly favor recognizing Islamic law as a founding principle.

On Wednesday, Iraq's main Shiite organization expressed reservations on the deal signed by the interim Governing Council—half of the council is made up of Shiites—and the US-led coalition for the handover of political power by the end of June 2004. *AFP*

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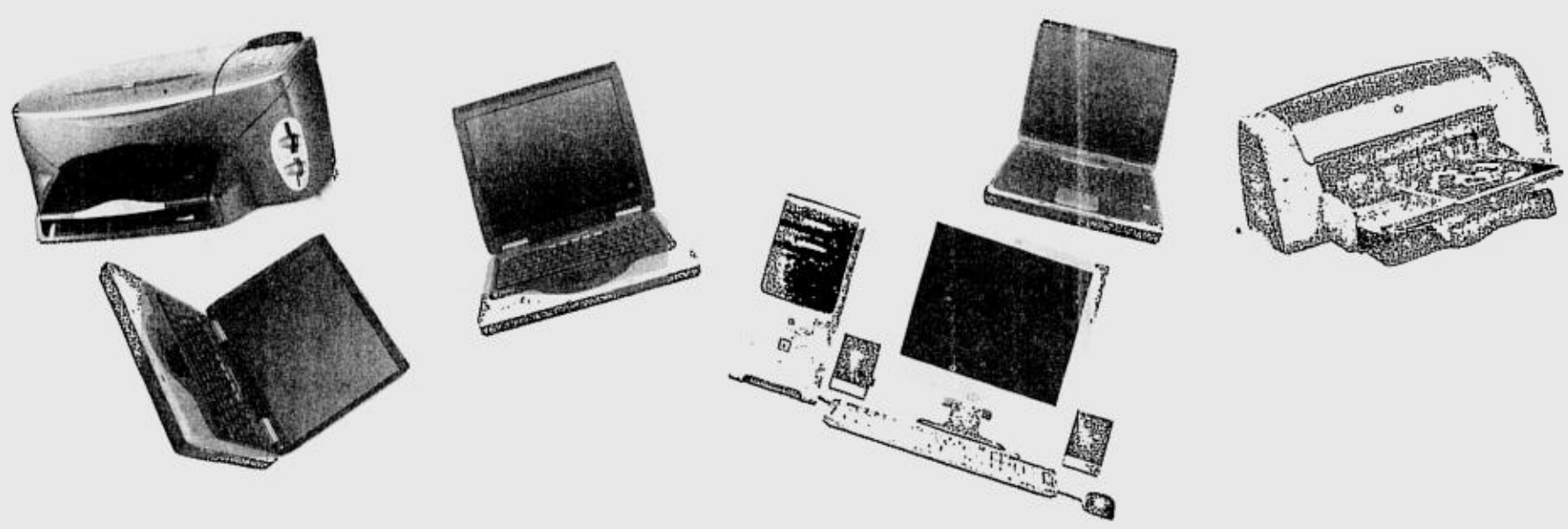

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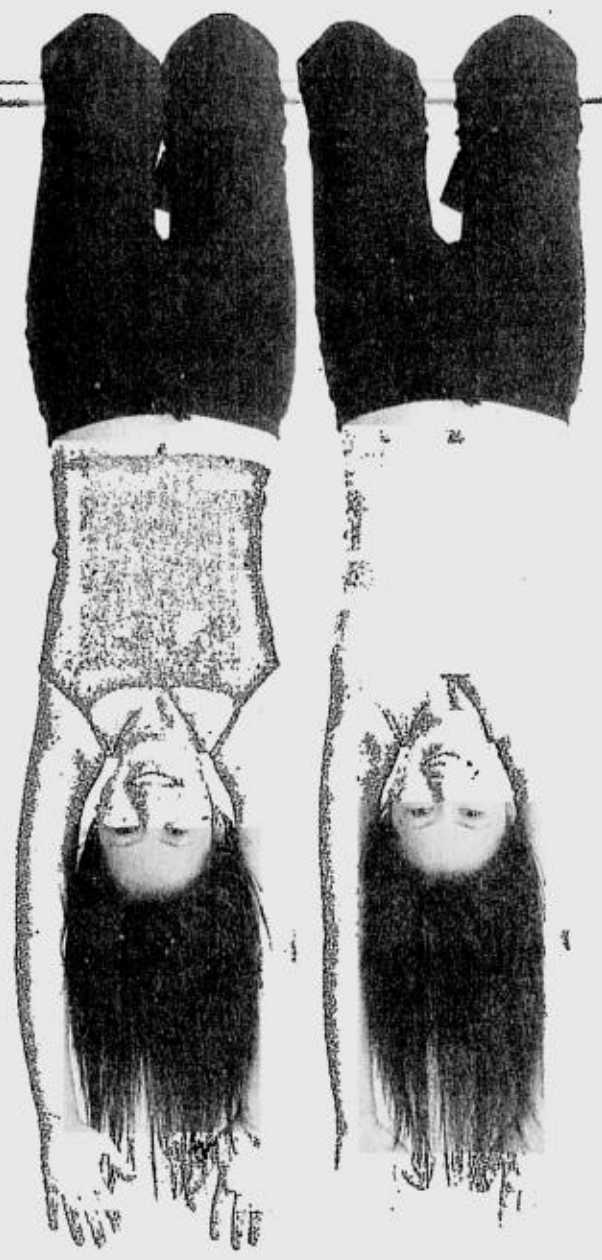

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NO. OF DEPENDENTS
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NAME OF OFFICE/BUSINESS
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SPOUSE'S
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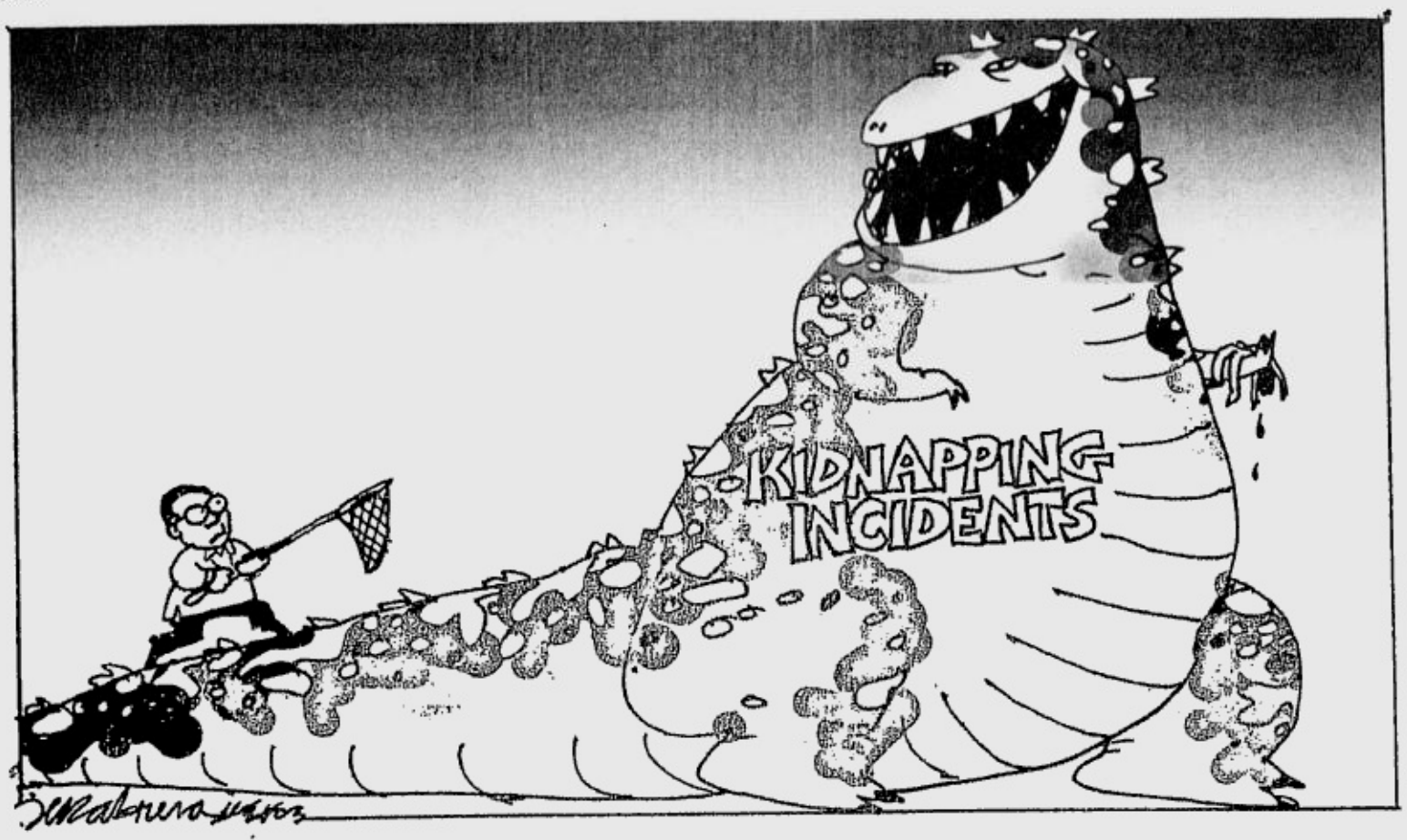

Forgotten war

EDITORIAL

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Angelo Reyes as head of the Anti-Kidnapping Task Force last month, very few people attached any real significance to it. The creation of the new position, carrying Cabinet rank, looked like another attempt to placate Ms Macapagal's loyal ally who had been forced out of his post as defense secretary amid allegations of corruption and mismanagement made by the Oakwood mutineers.

Malacañang tried to underscore the importance of the job and the urgency of the appointment by saying this was being done in response to the clamor of businessmen to check a rise in kidnappings. But even that admission hardly caused much public alarm. After all, kidnapping cases were no longer hitting the headlines or even making the news. It took the killing of a young Coca-Cola finance executive, Betti Chua Sy, to jolt the nation back to the reality that the problem never really went away but had in fact grown to unprecedented proportions.

Sy, 32 and a summa cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines, was driving to office Monday morning when she was stopped by a gang of kidnappers. They shot up her Toyota Rav 4 on Biak na Bato Street in Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City and then dragged her into their getaway vehicle. Her lifeless body was found the next day in Parañaque, wrapped in a blanket and stuffed inside a plastic garbage bag. Police theorized that she had bled to death, even as her kidnappers tried to negotiate for the payment of P10 million in ransom.

Teresita Ang-See, president of the civic group Citizens' Action Against Crime, described the abduction and killing of Sy as "the worst abduction case" this year. But apparently that is only because very few kidnappings ended with the victims being killed.

Otherwise the statistics are grimmer than they have ever been. The Philippine National Police has said that a total of 83 kidnapping cases were reported as of last month, a 31.7 percent rise over the number for the same period last year. Ang-See, however, said that the correct figure is much higher: 110 cases, involving 165 victims. And from September to October, she added, kidnappings were averaging one per day. The situation is the worst in a decade, she concluded.

Why the discrepancy between the numbers given by the police and the anti-crime watchdog? That can be explained by the fact that a growing number of victims' families choose to negotiate with the kidnappers and pay ransom without informing the police, either out of fear of jeopardizing the lives of the victims or out of plain mistrust over the competence or integrity of the police.

That may also be the reason the number of cases have swelled this year. If kidnappers earn millions without fear of being reported to the police, much less getting caught, they can be expected to strike again and again. But then who can blame the victims and their families? There have simply been too many cases of kidnap victims ending up dead in botched rescue operations as well as too many policemen and soldiers involved in kidnapping cases.

To win this war, the authorities obviously have to begin by winning back the trust of the victims and their families. And that requires getting back future victims alive and possibly unharmed and catching the culprits and putting them behind bars.

In the case of Sy, obviously nothing can be done to save her now, but for once the police has demonstrated the capability to find the culprits quickly (or some of them at least). The day after Sy's body was found, the driver of the getaway vehicle surrendered to the police and led them to their hideout in Trece Matires, Cavite. Two of his henchmen were caught there. Three others were captured yesterday.

The renewed police interest or enthusiasm in going after kidnappers also resulted in the killing of the suspected leader and three members of a major kidnapping syndicate in Dinalupihan, Bataan, yesterday. While the group was not linked to the Sy kidnap and murder, it was nonetheless a major victory in the war against kidnapping.

But there is still a lot of work to be done, including finding the leader of the so-called Waray Gang that abducted and killed Sy. Reyes and his men cannot rest on their laurels. By his own estimate, six big syndicates are responsible for the spate of kidnappings this year. If Reyes knows them, he should go get them. Anything less than a clear victory in the war against crime could very well spell defeat for Ms Macapagal in the 2004 elections.

While anti-kidnap czar sings, the kidnapper stings

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY will kidnapping not flourish here when the anti-kidnapping czar spends his time singing and dancing instead of hunting down kidnappers? How much time did Angelo Reyes and the supervisor of the police forces, Interior Secretary Joey Lina, spend rehearsing their act in "The Three Terrors" concert and having themselves measured and fitted for their costumes? Probably many days and weeks. If they had used that time to hunt down kidnappers, Betti Chua Sy would still be alive today.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made a mistake when she appointed the two of them to the Cabinet since their ambition is to be in show biz. I say let them do what they want to do. Release them from the Cabinet so they can devote all their time to singing and dancing.

But here is the scariest threat: "The Three Terrors" are threatening to hold a third concert

* * *

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has filed a bill seeking to make all incumbent officials who file certificates of candidacy automatically resigned from their positions. Pimentel said this will discourage "political adventurism and opportunism" and prevent overloading the Commission on Elections with too many candidates.

At present, senators who run for higher offices such as the presidency or vice presidency, don't have to resign their post. If they lose in the presidential or vice presidential polls, they can always go back to the Senate.

But that is not the case with congressmen or governors or mayors. Because they have only three-year terms, their terms would be over by the time the new set of officials are sworn in. So they're out of jobs if they lose.

But senators have six-year terms. Half of them still have three years to go by the time of the presidential elections. Since they have nothing to lose by running for higher positions (if they lose, they can also go back to the Senate to serve the remaining three years of their term), they will be encouraged to throw their hats into the ring just for the heck and the funds of it. Thus, we can expect a surfeit of candidates. This will make the work of the Comelec harder, the list of candidates and the counting longer.

Only the senators have this privilege. Thus, the law allowing this is "class legislation" as it favors one group of people at the expense of others (like the Lina Law, the Urban Development and Housing Act, which favors squatters at the expense of property owners), and is therefore unconstitutional.

The Pimentel bill seeks to eliminate this unconstitutionality and level the playing field for all candidates. Why favor senators at the expense of others?

It is a sensible bill and should be enacted into law. But because senators would be adversely affected, will they even bother to debate it in time for next year's elections?

* * *

There may be a change of governors in Isabela. The Supreme Court en banc has declared null and void the proclamation of Faustino Dy Jr. as governor of Isabela. The decision was for a petition for certiorari filed by Manuel L. Siquian, a gubernatorial candidate in Isabela during the May 14, 2001 elections.

A registered voter, Constante Foronda Jr., had filed before the Comelec a petition to cancel Siquian's certificate of candidacy on the ground that he had been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, was sentenced to more than 18 months in prison, was not granted any pardon or amnesty, and was therefore disqualified from running for public office.

Siquian replied that he was granted by then President Fidel V. Ramos absolute and unconditional pardon and his civil and political rights were restored. Nevertheless the Comelec disqualified him and deleted his name from the list of official candidates.

Siquian filed a motion for reconsideration, which the Comelec en banc rejected on May 8, 2001. Claiming he received the resolution late, Siquian filed a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court after the May 14, 2001 elections. The petition asked the Court to declare null and void the May 8, 2001 Comelec resolution and the issuance of a restraining order.

In the meantime, on May 23, 2001, Faustino Dy Jr. was proclaimed governor of Isabela. On June 19, 2001, the Court, not having been informed of Dy's proclamation, issued a temporary restraining order, "effective immediately and continuing until further orders from this Court, ordering the Comelec and the Provincial Board of Canvassers of Isabela" not to implement the Comelec en banc resolution of May 8, 2001, not to canvass the results of the elections for governor, and not to proclaim any winner for governor.

The main issue was whether the Comelec committed grave abuse of discretion in declaring Siquian a nuisance candidate.

It did, ruled the Supreme Court.

While the Court did not order a new election to allow Siquian to run for governor, a right which he was unjustly barred from exercising, the Court, in enforcing the June 19, 2001 restraining order, effectively nullified the proclamation as governor of Dy, whose term is about to end anyway.

The position is now vacant. The vice governor will succeed to the position.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: FPJ is being interviewed on his qualifications for the presidency.

Reporter: Do you know anything about the economy?

FPJ: *Oo naman.* Economy is cheaper than first class.

Hero

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DO not recall the ad exactly. But it said something to the effect that Malaya had turned from a publication that extolled radicalism and recklessness to one that valued objectivity and responsibility. It appeared on TV in the late 1980s or early 1990s when the newspaper passed on to new owners.

I don't know if the ad was referring to Joe Burgos' martial law Malaya or to the one that followed after 1986. But even if pointed directly to the latter, it would still have meant taking a swipe at the former because it was the thing that established the "radicalism and recklessness" its successor was heir to. The immediate post-Edsa Malaya might not have been the same thing as its illustrious predecessor, but it still retained strong echoes of it—until its conversion to "objectivity and responsibility" by its new owners.

What its new owners meant by "objectivity and responsibility," they swiftly conveyed by turning it into a mouthpiece of one of Marcos' biggest cronies. As horrible a piece of irony on—and injustice to—Joe Burgos as could have happened to him.

I remembered that ad because I wrote about it in passing at the time, astounded that it could have escaped public notice, and wrath. In fact, Burgos and Malaya (when it was still his) showed the best that journalism could be.

Foremost, they showed up the fallacy the ad about Malaya would later propose, a fallacy we continue to hear to this day: that what is positive and constructive, what is lofty and edifying, what is objective and responsible, is news that doesn't criticize or reveal the ugly side of life. Burgos and Malaya showed that in the face of monumental wrongdoing, not criticizing or revealing the ugly side of life was **not** being positive and constructive, lofty and edifying, objective and responsible, it merely sucked. They showed that glossing over the effects of tyranny, demanding only to see the neon-lit billboards that hid the shanties made of cardboard and tin, and blanketed by despair and creeping shadows, was reckless and irresponsible.

Under Burgos, Malaya would feature Boni Gillego's articles exposing Marcos' medals as fake. But its crowning glory—the one thing that made Burgos a marked man, literally—was that it saw the funeral march of Ninoy Aquino. "Saw" is the word: no other newspaper or TV station at the time did so. The day after Ninoy was laid to rest, the other newspapers proclaimed that Marcos had just issued a decree or something.

Only Malaya saw that Sto. Domingo had turned into the Mecca of modern-day Filipino Christians, after having admitted Ninoy's remains while bigger and holier churches had balked at being defiled by them. Only Malaya saw that more than a million Filipinos had trailed in Ninoy's wake, winding down the streets of Manila like a (yellow) flood, past hovels and motels, grinding the city to a halt. Only Malaya saw the tears of a wounded country, and the fire that flared from out of them as from spilled gasoline, a fire that would soon engulf the buildings and slums, the hills and the valleys.

It was as best as journalism could be.

It wasn't just that Burgos was a courageous man, though that is no mean feat in a country where people tend to be courageous after the threat has passed. It was that he was impelled to do what he did by what he was. He was a journalist. He did not stop to think whether what he did was courageous or not, he only asked himself if what he wrote and published were truthful or not. He did not stop to think whether what he did would bring him fame or unwanted attention, he only asked himself if what he wrote and published his readers deserved or not. He did not ask himself whether what he did would bring personal disaster or national glory, he only asked himself if the things he wrote and published in fact happened.

You need no further proof of that than that Burgos did what he did when he did, which was in the deepest darkness of martial law. Easy to be brave when the world has a limelight trained on you and your persecution takes on the aspect of a diary written scrupulously on the conscience of the world. Not so easy when you could die and no one would notice, or send you off with anything other than a bunch of flowers and a nice epitaph. Which was what happened to many of the activists of Burgos' time, their sound and fury buried in obscurity. Nothing impels you then than sheer conviction, than the belief that what you are doing is the right thing to do—as activist, as journalist, as human being.

And you need no further proof of that than that Burgos continued to do what he did long after everyone discovered courage when the threat had passed, strutting like saviors with Galils strung around their shoulders. If anyone had toiled mightily to buy freedom for his country, Burgos had. If anyone was a true hero, namely, one who never aspired to become one, Burgos was. If anyone deserved all the honors and privileges that came with victory, Burgos did. But Burgos never sought any of that, although he could easily have demanded—yes, demanded, by right of suffering—any position he craved. He craved nothing. He did the only positive and constructive thing, the only lofty and edifying thing, the only objective and responsible thing he knew: write and publish.

Well, he did one other thing that was positive and constructive, lofty and edifying, objective and responsible, and that was to farm. His only failing there being that he did not use the utterances of all the heroes that rose to greet the sun for fertilizer. But then his plants might not have grown.

I know Joe Burgos would laugh at this thought, but I am seriously suggesting we put his face in one of our bills or coins. He most certainly deserves it more than the current occupant of Malacañang.

Avoiding the issues

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE NARROW escape of the country from the stand-off between Congress and the Supreme Court over the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has refocused the concern of the business community from the spasmodic political turbulence over the past three months to another more worrisome uncertainty: Who will be the main contenders for the presidency in the May 2004 elections?

The dangers from coup attempts or even coup jitters appear to have subsided after the government demonstrated it is more inept in handling disturbances such as the seizure of the Naia Terminal II control tower and the unruly demonstrations on Ayala Avenue, but a wave of executives representing foreign businesses and foreign journalists has descended on Manila, asking questions about how the presidential race is shaping up months before the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy.

Political turbulence arising from recurrent gridlocks has been factored in by foreign investors as part of the political landscape, but the fluidity and the unpredictability of the presidential race create uncertainty that bars forward planning. The only certainty is that President Macapagal-Arroyo is going to be the administration party's presidential candidate and the opposition is still in the midst of its own "selection process."

The muddled economic outlook for the next year is reflected in Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura's statement saying that "the banking system has proven itself highly resilient in the face of many challenges that seem to constantly beset our economy." He was referring to reports that most bankers were uncertain over the outlook for the coming year in the face of the volatile political atmosphere which they expect to become even more murky in the run-up to the elections.

What's fueling uncertainty is that not one among the few individuals whose names have been mentioned as probable presidential candidates has highlighted economic issues. Even the President has not focused the debate on the May elections on the economy. Nary a word has been heard from anyone in the opposition and not even from a probable third force candidate—former Education Secretary Raul Roco—and not from actor Fernando Poe Jr. or Sen. Panfilo Lacson. All of them, including the President, have ignored the importance of the economy as an election issue, as though economics is not at all part of the agenda for discussion in the presidential election.

So far, the agenda has been taken over by coup rumors and most recently by the Davide impeachment controversy. After the controversy was defused, the focus of the debates has shifted toward who will be the running mate of President Macapagal and who will be the running mate of the opposition's presidential candidate, although the latter has not even made up its mind as to whom to field against the President. At this stage, even though there's plenty of talk in the wake of the opposition's selection process, called a "road show," the opposition is still having problems forging a "united opposition" with a single candidate.

The question visiting journalists and "firemen" from investment houses ask is, what economic policy or program Roco, Poe, Lacson or whoever aspires to be president stands for and will he be a better economic manager or better alternative than the President they seek to replace. The issue of a Fernando Poe presidency (if he wins, although I contend that his "winnability" or popularity is highly exaggerated) bothers visiting journalists and representatives of risk consultancy houses who have been mapping the contours of the election arena after the dissipation of the Davide impeachment crisis. Another question that keeps on recurring is, what is Eduardo Cojuangco up to, after the Supreme Court knocked back the attack mounted by his cohorts in the Nationalist People's Coalition?

After the crisis, the discourse has even departed further away from the economic issue and toward the prospects of the departure of Joseph Estrada for surgery in the United States. This shift in focus has not helped build confidence that the 2004 elections will give Filipinos a new leadership whose priorities are tilted toward the economy and will be an occasion for political renewal. It is extremely important that both local businessmen and foreign investors have an idea by now what economic environment they can expect after the elections. For example, what would a new Macapagal presidency be like in terms of opportunities of business dynamism, or a Roco presidency, a Poe presidency, or a Lacson presidency?

All of them are evading the concerns and the uncertainties at the back of the head of the businessmen. Addressing these concerns is important because the business community is the engine of growth and economic dynamism. It is true that it is the votes of the Filipino electors and not those of the businessmen that will determine who will be the next president. But even the ordinary voters deserve some clarification from those who aspire to be president what is in store for them after May 2004—in terms of jobs, good governance and competent administration, and law and order.

Rather than addressing these issues, the political discourse as of the past few days has already been degraded by the dissemination of smear or "white papers," slandering prospective presidential or vice-presidential contenders. This turn of events is undermining confidence in the ability of the electoral process to produce alternatives.

Disease and stigma

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THOUGH it is possible to both predict and cure cervical cancer, it remains one of the top killers of women today.

One reason is that the majority of women still do not avail themselves of screening, either through the traditional "pap smear" or newer diagnostic tests, including one to detect the presence of the human papilloma virus or HPV, which has been definitely linked to the development of cervical cancer.

Several reasons have been advanced for women's reluctance to come in for cervical cancer screening. But one that keeps recurring is that women associate the pap smear—and cervical cancer—with prostitution. Cervical cancer isn't usually classified as a sexually transmitted disease, but penetrative sex, or sex that involves at least contact with mucosal tissue, is in fact the only way the HPV can be introduced into the genital tract. The HPV is a fairly common virus, and a woman's body is usually capable of getting rid of the infection by itself. But as a woman grows older, and her immune system weakens, she may exhibit what's known as "persistent" HPV infection, which has been determined to be a definitive predictor of cervical cancer.

You don't have to be a prostitute to develop cervical cancer, but you usually have to be sexually active. But it is not a disease solely of the promiscuous, though of course early sexual initiation and having multiple partners would place you at higher risk of developing the disease. Still, even if you're monogamous, you can still acquire an HPV infestation from your partner, especially if your partner is not monogamous himself.

* * *

THERE was quite a debate, raging for all three days of our meetings, at the First Asian HPV Summit in Sydney. It was triggered by a remark of Dr. Walter Kinney of the medical group Kaiser Permanente who spoke of the "adverse psychological effect" on patients when told that they have a "sexually transmitted" infection or disease. Perhaps what doctors should tell the women who've tested positive for HPV, he said, is that they have come down with an "infection," and not necessarily a "disease," in much the same way, he said, that the presence of microbes in the large intestines does not necessarily mean one has an intestinal disease.

Dr. Attila Lorincz of Digene USA made clear that it is not HPV itself that "causes" cervical cancer. Rather, the virus acts in much the same way as HIV, lowering a woman's immunity and rendering her vulnerable to cervical cancer.

This is the reason, he said, that annual screening is not usually recommended for women younger than 25 years, since a "positive" finding for HPV doesn't really mean anything since she would most probably be able to fight off the infection. The odds of persistent HPV infection usually rises with age, so that two or more "positives" in a woman over 40 would usually call for not just a pap smear but a colposcopy, which allows a medical person to take a microscopic examination of the cervix.

Other participants then began exploring other ways—other than through sex, that is—that HPV could be transmitted. Could it be possible, said a doctor from China, that a woman could infect herself with HPV with her own hands which have touched other parts of her body infested with warts?

* * *

BREAKING the news that a woman has come down with a sexually transmitted infection is particularly difficult when the patient is a "good" wife, that is, faithful to her husband who has been her sole sexual partner, doctors said.

Some Indian participants even told of women patients who brought in their husbands so the men could hear the diagnosis for themselves, only to have the husbands declare that "she must have gotten the sickness elsewhere."

Women's negative attitudes toward screening, which stems from their preference to live in denial about the disease, was borne out in a paper presented by Australian researcher Kristen McCaffery, who interviewed both whites and women of color in the United Kingdom and Australia. Many women, she said, are "unaware, shocked and surprised" when told about their exposure to HPV and possible cervical cancer. The use of the term "wart virus" for the HPV also "seemed to exacerbate" the generally negative attitude toward the disease, she added.

Even by simply coming in for a test, a woman was apt to leave herself vulnerable to "suspicions and teasing," McCaffery said. "Participation in testing was seen to communicate undesirable messages about sex and risk to partners, family and friends," leading to feelings of "mistrust and (suspicions of) infidelity" between partners.

* * *

THE REACTIONS of a woman, and of the significant others in her life, to screening and to an unfavorable diagnosis seems to depend on the quality of her "sexual relations, status and trust" with her partner, McCaffery pointed out.

Whether the diagnosis would be accepted soberly or with a lot emotional turmoil depends on such factors as: whether the woman is married or not, the acceptance of one's sexual relationships before marriage, and the quality of the relationship itself.

Not all women harbor negative attitudes towards HPV and cervical cancer, McCaffery noted, though. "Some welcome the information and the access to screening, saying it gave them a form of reassurance about their health and future."

Dr. Jeffrey Tan of the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, exquisitely phrased the right approach: "We have no right to withhold the facts. We have harsh news to break, but we must break it gently."

Perhaps what needs to be done is not to destigmatize cervical cancer as a sexually transmitted disease, but to de-stigmatize sexually transmitted infections and diseases themselves. It's time we stopped linking diseases to morality.

Prison diary

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE cannot help but wonder what Joseph Estrada really wants in life. Of course, he wants to get out of prison and return to the comfort of his San Juan home, even if under house arrest. Someone should remind him that his present cell, if we can call it that, is not typical of Bilibid. If he had spent a night in a real jail, perhaps he would at least learn to count his blessings and be grateful for them.

For months, there was the Erap petition to have knee surgery in the United States. Now that the administration is willing to let him go, he says he cannot leave his aging mother. There is no end to this soap opera.

As a historian, I wonder what Erap's routine is like in jail. I wish that he is keeping a diary.

I was thinking of Erap as I was browsing through the prison diary of Jorge B. Vargas. This was published as an appendix to the last book of Teodoro Agoncillo, "The Burden of Proof: The Vargas-Laurel Collaboration Case" (1984). There is something in solitude that reduces the greatest of men to simplicity and reflection. In the case of Ninoy Aquino, his imprisonment brought him back to the faith of his childhood. Vargas has insights into the collaboration issue, has many harsh words for Douglas MacArthur whom he considered a friend in better times but who ignored him after the war when he was branded a prisoner of war.

Most of the diary deals with the simplest of things and this becomes more pronounced when you realize that during the Quezon and Laurel administrations, Vargas as "little president" was practically the most powerful man in Malacañang and, of course, the Philippines. Thus to see this man go from the corridors of power to Sugamo prison, from all those high socials and politics to the prison laundry room, is to see the cycle of life. Sometimes you are up, sometimes you are down.

On Dec. 24, 1945 he wrote: "Xmas service in mess hall at 3 p.m. Germans sang Xmas carol in Deutsch—Chinese sang New National Anthem in Chinese—We sang Filipino National Hymn in Spanish, but only [Camilo] Osias knew the words."

Next day he noted the decorations and dinner menu that consisted of turkey cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, fruit pudding, etc. This seemed more like Thanksgiving than Christmas, but being a prisoner he had no choice. Dec. 30 he dedicated to Rizal Day and on Dec. 31 he wrote, "Nothing Unusual—just another day in prison—slept at 7 p.m. straight to 6 a.m. next morning."

In 1945 there is a lot of laundry to do: "January 4th at 9:45 Chaplain Clemen came in and surprised me washing my winter underwear—told him I consider my life as having gone back to the primitive, where one has to do everything himself—Although rather late in life, but it is good to know one can stand it in good grace and good health. Told me he read of proposal to make Philippines 49th state of US. He was in favor. Asked my opinion economically advantageous to Phil. if really agreeable to US but many people would prefer absolute independence—Rather late anyhow now as independence is coming on July 4th."

The chaplain always seemed to catch Vargas in the laundry and it is amusing to read his entries on cleaning. For example his entry on Feb. 6, 1946 said: "Laundered pair of winter underwear for fully one hour but made it white as new." Earlier, "Laundered thick flannel pajamas after bath and shave today—Hard going but believe did a good job—at least pajamas whiter than ever before." Valentine's Day was special not for love but rather for the fact that Vargas sent out his first batch of laundry in five months. He bundled it in a *furoshiki* containing: 1 khaki shirt, 2 trousers (1 khaki 1; flannel white), 3 pairs of socks (1 silk, 1 cotton, 1 woolen with notation 'to please mend holes'), 2 handkerchiefs (1 white, 1 furoshiki), 1 GI towel, 1 suit of pajamas (silk), 1 bathrobe (white toweling)."

When these came back two days later, he wrote: "Everything OK except blue woolen socks which has shrunk to a baby's size—guard showed Lt. Bernard who was greatly amused but offered to give me a woolen sock if I needed any. Also advised me not to send laundry my white woolen sweater—any clothes with 50 percent wool will shrink he said—But to launder it myself in tepid water very carefully—soak it in soap first for about an hour then rinse it with cold water—Do not hang to dry as it will stretch, but lay it down on top of a towel, it may take three or four days, but it would be best..."

To remind him of home and his life before prison, he cut out pictures of paintings in his collection in Manila and tried to make the drab prison walls more bearable: "January 6. I cut out [Fernando] Amorsolo's Harvest scene, [Felix] Resurreccion Hidalgo's Punta Santa Ana and [Fabian] de la Rosa's Pasig River from art catalogue. Also picture of Kawilihan from cover and use them as decorations in my cell pasting them to wall with pomade."

Later he added the pictures of his painting by Juan Luna and another Hidalgo supplementing the memories with family pictures.

All this may seem silly and mundane to us who have never been in prison, but one wonders what prison really does to a man. Only a diary will tell us. This is why diaries and letters are so important to historians, but then with the age of texting and e-mail upon us, hard copies and hard history will be hard to access in the future.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Ramadan and my golf

HIGH BLOOD

Macabangkit B. Lanto

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

IT was one of those days when, over lunch at the clubhouse, foursomes compute the scores and Nassau bets, arguing over the number of "holes" and "corners" each won. On this particular day, however, there was not much to be computed. Except for a few holes, I had won all the bets. My golfmates were all praises about how I had grooved my swing and, yes, my miracle putts, as if my putter had been transformed into Harry Potter's magic wand. I was on cloud nine thinking of the tournaments ahead.

Earlier Ducky Paredes, our president, sent me a text message reminding me of the Federation of Senior Golfers tournament and another text message reminded me of the UP Barkada golf, both slated for November. I had won champion trophies in both tournaments when they were last held and I was confident that with my newfound swing I could defend my "crown." But it was not to be so.

In what must have been some kind of omen, there was a peculiar ring from my cell phone (it sounded like a different ring tone). It was the missus (a certified golf widow) reminding me to pick up a Ramadan calendar at the Quiapo Mosque. (Yes, Virginia, we have a special calendar indicating the sighting of the new moon when Ramadan starts, including the hour, minute and second when we have to pray, fast and break the fast.)

Suddenly my golf world, to use a grade schooler's rhyme, "came tumbling down." All my hours of preparation in the driving range to hone my swing and, yes, my dream of another trophy, went pffft. How could I play golf during Ramadan?

To the uninitiated, Ramadan is the month when Muslims like us have to observe complete and absolute abstinence from food, liquid, sex and other vices from sunrise to sunset. And this was my problem. How could I, a senior golfer, not drink at least a glass of water under the sweltering sun during a round of golf without suffering dehydration or risking a fatal sun stroke? The *imam* or high priest I consulted was not of any help. He gave me a choice between being a Muslim or *Nazrani* (meaning Christian, from the word Nazareth).

One time, I welcomed playing a foursome with Sim Datumanong (yes, the justice secretary, a golf aficionado also). I had told myself that Sim, being a more senior and a respected Muslim leader, could not stand fasting. And the moment I would see him sip a drop of water, I would break my fast pronto! At least it would mitigate my feelings of guilt. But much to my chagrin, he endured the 18-hole game without breaking his fast.

I tried using a golf cart and an umbrella girl to shield me from the scorching sun before. But the *ulamas* warned me that Islam might not allow umbrella girls (can you believe that?). This is because during Ramadan, it is taboo to have physical contact with the opposite sex and to entertain carnal, lewd and lascivious thoughts.

By way of consolation, I said to myself that if I could play 18 holes while fasting, I could look forward to a cool, refreshing bath in the locker room. But that was not to be so. During Ramadan, a male cannot expose his body from the navel to the knee even while taking a bath. Should I perhaps wear a chador for males? But how could I take a bath that way without inviting too much attention? People might suspect I was hiding something hideous underneath or worse, that I was a hermaphrodite.

According to our religion, the only ones who are exempted from the observance of Ramadan are the sick, the feeble, the travelers and women who are having their menstruation. Aha! there you are, I said to myself, I can say I am a "traveler."

So I consulted an *alim* (I tell you, I am not one to give up easily looking for a little "*palusot*") and asked him if "traveling" a golf course falls into any of those categories. I got a stern rebuke from him.

I know of some Muslim golf buffs who do not welcome Ramadan although it is our holiest month. But I continue to observe strictly the tenets of my religion and perform its mandated arcane prayers and rituals, especially now that I am in my golden years. I am as devoted as any Muslim, including Osama bin Laden, who has been described by some as a dedicated golfer who substitutes golf balls with rockets and bombs. (You know, when stalled by a snail-paced flight ahead of you, golfers get crazy ideas like this to keep the blood pressure from shooting up to point where bad shots are guaranteed.)

As a lawyer, I am trained to subject every proposition—even established dogmas to Socratic analysis—but my father tells me that a religious mind is a dead mind (huh!). If there were a Shariah Court of Appeals, you are dead right I would bring my case there. After all, Almighty Allah is most beneficent and merciful to all, including golfers.

But I have this strange premonition that a "non-destructive hurricane" will hit the golf courses this November and the scheduled tournaments will be postponed after the feast of Eid-el Fitr (Nov. 25), which marks the end of Ramadan which has been proclaimed a national holiday. But can my muscles recover my newfound swing by then?

Macabangkit B. Lanto, 61, is a senior golfer, a lawyer, a former congressman, tourism undersecretary and ambassador to Egypt.

THEY SAID

Weak leader

"She has failed to demonstrate the strong leadership that she has been wanting to project."
—Institute of Political and Electoral Reforms board member Earl Parreno on President Macapagal-Arroyo

Big problem

"Why should I create a big problem for myself?"
—Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., reacting to allegations that his party was ready to sacrifice Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. so he could keep his post in the House

Harmful move

"Do your job and for heaven's sake, stop this impeachment case. It is doing great harm to this nation and it is not justified."
—Business consultant Peter Wallace on the eroding credibility of Congress

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Why should 'special priests' deal with sins of abortion?

I WAS surprised to learn that there are "Only special priests for the sin of abortion." (PDI, 11/12/03)

My Roman Catholic learning tells me that any priest can perform all of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ to bring divine help or grace to man—with the exception of confirmation, which only a bishop normally does. I did not know, alas, that the seal of the confessional is not that absolute, for priests may reveal them somehow to the bishop in the case of abortion.

As a Catholic, I agree that abortion is a heinous sin, although I doubt that its gravity can be far greater than rape or murder, for example. This is probably where Canon Law slightly differs from Civil Law. The one may punish man for certain mortal sins twice: on earth through the process of excommunication and in hell after death; the other punishes criminals only once, even as there are varying degrees of punishment for varying gravities of crime.

At any rate, I realize that given the mounting incidence of abortion in our midst and our times, the Church must indeed launch a very strong and pronounced campaign against it. But sins are a direct function of moral decline, and priests, in my view, should be more of mentors than administrators. I believe that the Church may more meaningfully help the flock to renounce the forthcoming bills that seek to legalize abortion, not as much by making penance or absolution for their commission especially difficult or cumbersome, as by extending the roots of Church teachings deeply enough.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
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Golden Country Homes,
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Saying it like it is

IN HIS Oct. 10 column titled "Lying," Conrado de Quiros seconded the opinion of former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter that America has "lost the war (with Iraq) economically." And that's not all.

Quoting Ritter further, "the American economy (is) hemorrhaging. Why should taxpayers want to shell out another $85 billion (to Iraq), which Bush wants them to do, when they cannot find jobs; unemployment is the highest in 10 years?"

The former US Marine goes on to say that "rebuilding another country halfway around the world cannot be first on (Americans') wish list. The American public is up in arms."

Agreeing with Ritter's view begs the $60,000-question: Why should American taxpayers want to "shell out" money to anyone "halfway around the world," including, for example the untold billions poured into the Philippines over the last 100 years, and still counting?

Is there any real difference between a so-called coalition of the willing "partner" and a vanquished Iraq removing hard-earned dollars from the pockets of US taxpayers without their consent—behind their backs, actually—under any circumstances?

Why do I get the nagging feeling that I'm being mugged in Central Park less than a block from where I was born?

The picture for both Iraq and the Philippines to look forward to may not be so pretty if the polls showing Americans' ugly mood are translated into votes in 2004.

Spinmeisters on both sides of the Pacific who argue that the "few" millions going to the Philippines aren't the same as the $85 billion earmarked for Iraq should try explaining that to millions of unemployed Americans who can't pay the mortgage or buy things for their families like they used to.

The idea of taking care of your own first starts with knowing when to stop playing Santa Claus to others "halfway around the world," for example.

Nobody understands what happens when America pulls the plug better than her so-called "major non-Nato ally."

Using the back door of "dual citizenship" to induce the wholesale transfer of acquired "Fil-Am" wealth in America to the Philippines, Manila is now in a position to offset the foreign aid cutbacks that may follow US elections in November 2004.

The deeper the cuts and as soon as possible, in my opinion, the better for the 200 million taxpayers who still call America home.

—ELLIOT ANDERSON,
P.O. Box 2769, Ozamiz City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Pacquiao win can inspire us to achieve goals

WE should use the inspiration from Manny Pacquiao's victory as a meaningful step toward the attainment of our national goals. By his glowing example, Pacquiao has done what the political leaders have failed miserably to accomplish in bolstering national pride in a period of great economic difficulty.

Here is a man who gave flesh and meaning to many a politician's self-promoting slogan about sacrificing oneself for the good of the country.

When he returns to the country, it is only fair that Pacquiao receives the warmest welcome, if not the highest accolades, befitting a modern-day hero. At the same time, we should guard against grandstanding politicians who will surely try to take advantage of our admiration for Pacquiao to get a share of the limelight and ride on his popularity through media appearances with the Filipino champion.

Expect these credit-grabbers to have a field day when the only credit they can claim, if this indeed is credit, is aggravating our poverty problem, the main reason that young men like Pacquiao are pushed into the desperate and cruel sport of boxing.

—ADIN B. ABILLAR,
4 Visayas Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City

Correcting historical data

THIS refers to the article "In 'kamikaze' birthplace." (PDI, 11/27/03) I have been conducting years of research on Japanese studies during World War II in the region and would like to cite substantial information to correct the historical data written.

- No record is available that can prove that Lilly Hill at Clark Field became the headquarters of the Japanese Kembu Group, neither in official US Army accounts nor in Japanese records. That Lilly Hill was where the Kembu Group made its last stand has no factual basis, according to Shinjo Akamatsu's book. Using other various references such as "Outline of Kembu Group Operations, Clark Sector" provided by Prof. Rico Jose of the University of the Philippines, "Records of the Kembu Group" from the Institute of National Defense Studies in Tokyo, Japan, or a book published by former Lt. Commander Moji Chikanori titled "Admiral Ohnishi Reminiscences" and Nakajima/Inoguchi's "Divine Wind" along with American sources such as Robert Ross Smith's "US Army in WWII, Triumph in the Philippines" and the 40th Division, "The Years in WWII," it is clearly manifested that the so-called Japanese last stand positions were the mountains west of Clark Field in the Bamban area which were designated by the Kembu Group as Naval Combat Sectors (13th to 17th). Later, these forces retreated to the Mt. Pinatubo area.
- Akamatsu's book appeared on Dec. 5, 1944. This was not the date the defense of Clark Field started but rather an entry in his (Akamatsu's) diary, which indicated that he departed Miyasaki (Japan). The defense of Clark Field was started in November 1944 or earlier as both US Army and Japanese records indicated.
- Maj. Gen. Rikichi Tsukada's designation was wrongfully stated as "lieutenant." He was the head of the Japanese Kembu Group; both the army and the naval forces.
- The total number of Kembu Group survivors was not 800 as indicated but around 1,500; 450 men belonged to the Japanese navy and the remaining from the army.
- The peace memorial in Bamban stated in the INQUIRER article is the Air Fleet Shrine (sometimes called Admiral Ohnishi Shrine). The site became the headquarters of the Japanese Naval Air Force in the Philippines during the latter days of World War II. There is no engraved figure of Admiral Ohnishi in the shrine.

I can provide copy of the references cited if needed.

—RHONIE C. DELA CRUZ,
chair, Bamban Historical Society,
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Wrong treaty

RE Bambi Harper's column: "A 1925 tourist in Manila" on Nov. 11, 2003.

Correction: It is the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Spain on Dec. 10, 1898 ceding the Philippines with Cuba and Puerto Rico to the United States, not the Treaty of Versailles.

—ROGELIO PEÑA,
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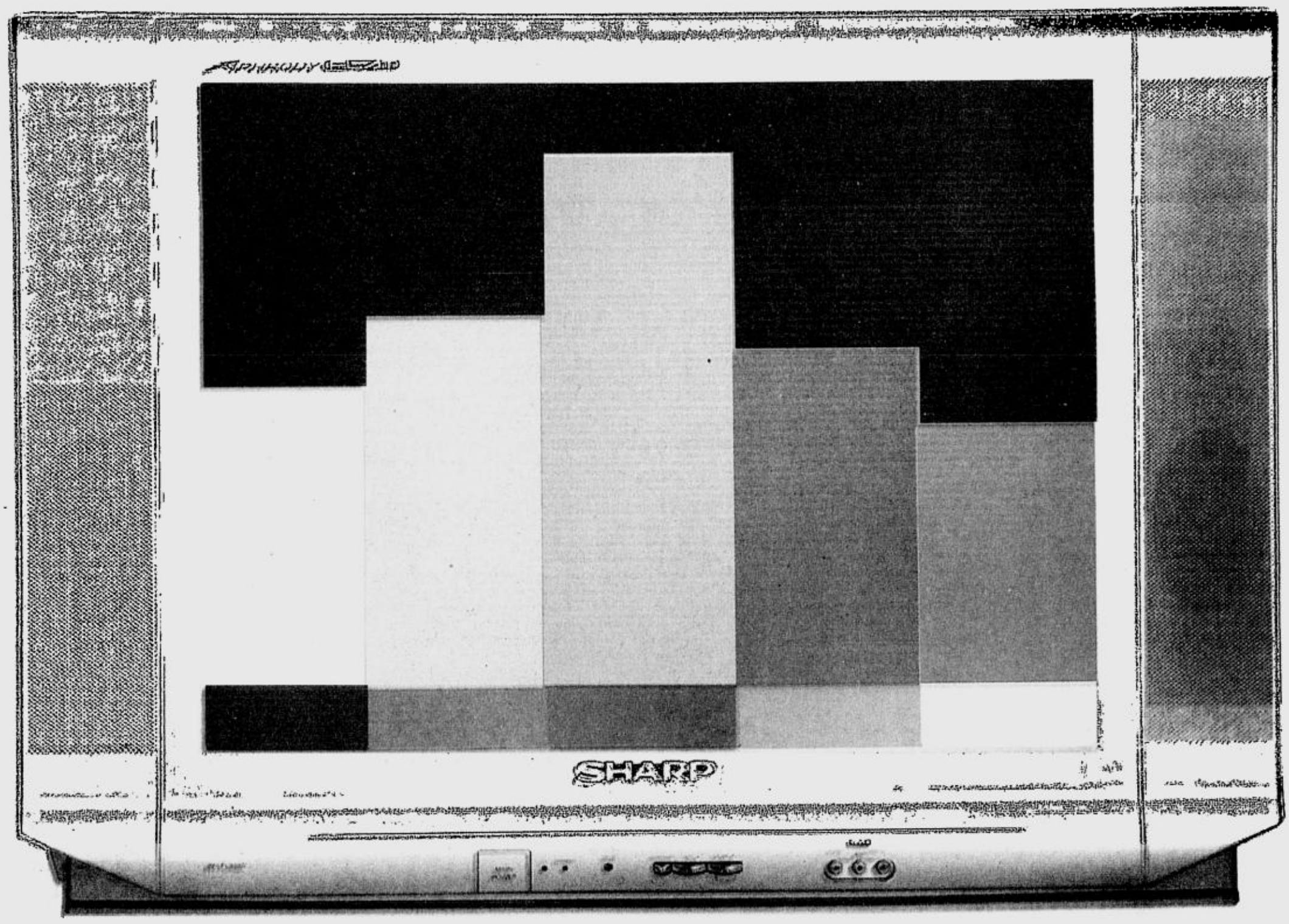

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US admiral, gov set war games meet

COTABATO CITY—US Armed Forces Commander in Chief for the Pacific (CINCPAC) Admiral Thomas Fargo is to meet North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol over the proposed holding of a joint RP-US military training in Central Mindanao.

Central Mindanao is one of several regions on the island where the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) maintains base.

The MILF views Piñol as an adversary because of the executive's constant support for a military campaign against the rebel group.

It was Piñol who proposed the holding of the Balikatan in the region, particularly in his province.

But Piñol said his concern was the economic gains that his province would get from the exercises.

"Its not more on combat, its more on the gains that our people would get out of hosting the exercises," Piñol told the INQUIRER.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday announced that she was supporting the idea of having the joint military exercise in North Cotabato because "Governor Piñol is advocating for it."

In a visit to the inauguration of a component of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (Malmar) in Pikit town, the President ordered Piñol to talk with Fargo, who was with the presidential entourage.

Piñol said Fargo agreed to discuss the proposed holding of the Balikatan in North Cotabato but the meeting has yet to be set.

"Other provinces shy away (from) the idea but North Cotabato is very much willing," Piñol told the INQUIRER.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita earlier announced that the war games could be held next year in Central Mindanao.

Ermita said the main reason for this was the reported presence of the Jemaah Islamiya in the region. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

E. Samar town rises on its feet after quake

By Eden Cidro, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—The people of Can-avid town, Eastern Samar are starting to pick up the pieces following the devastating earthquake that hit the town on Wednesday.

Can-avid Mayor Gil Norman Germino, however, expressed lament that they have yet to receive assistance from any relief agency. All they were getting were requests for reports on the damage.

The municipal government is using its calamity fund to assist residents in need.

So far, they had given financial assistance for the burial of the lone fatality and for medical treatment of those injured during the tremor.

Marvin Laguin, a five-month-old baby, was killed after a wall collapsed on him and his mother, Juliana.

Juliana, 39, suffered head injuries. She was the caretaker of a house in Barangay 9 where she and her baby were sleeping when the tremor struck.

Germino said some families affected by the earthquake were also asking the municipal government to provide them food and help in repairing their homes.

A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 hit Eastern Visayas at 1:14 a.m. on Monday.

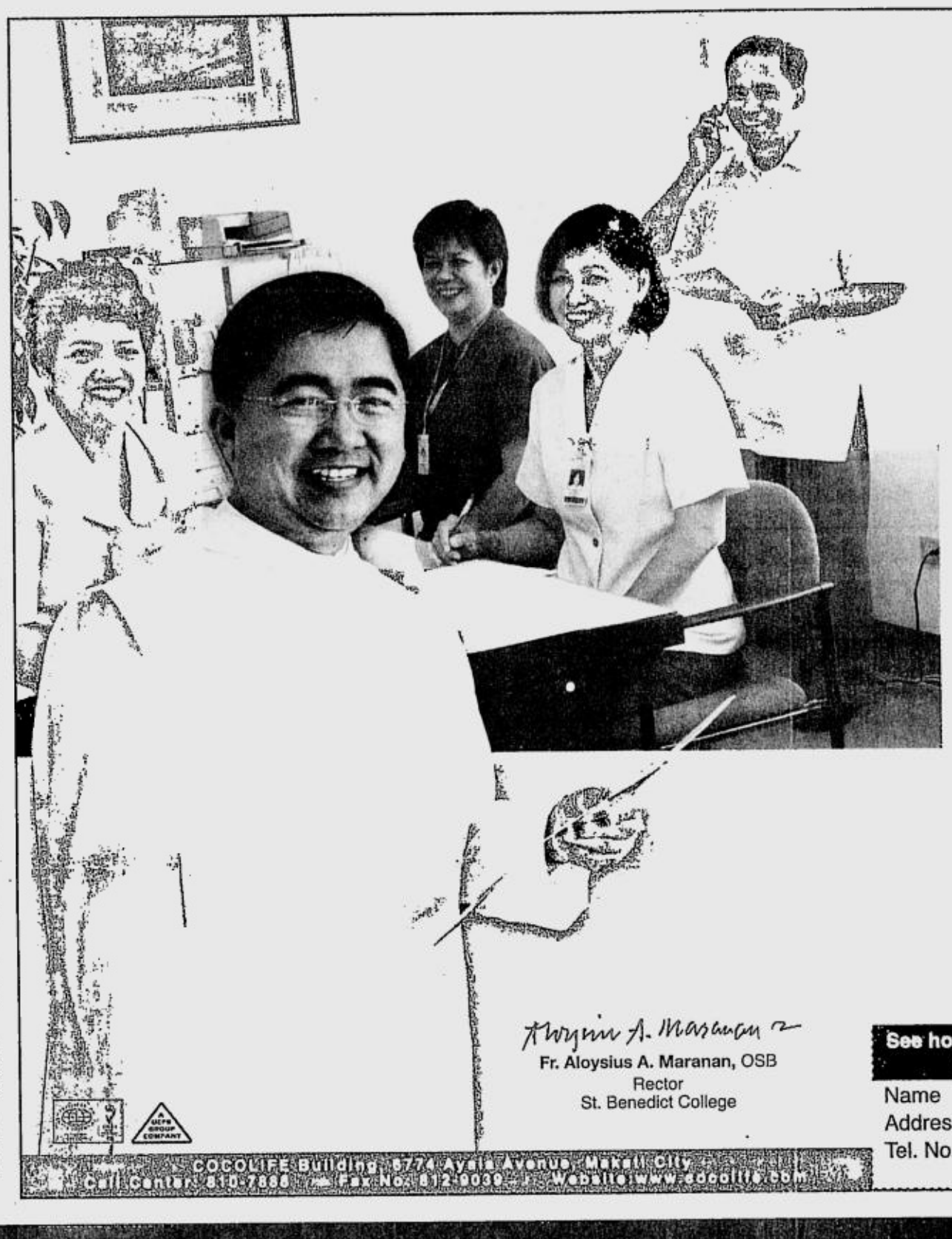
Hardest hit was Can-avid where at least P10 million worth of property and infrastructure were destroyed. The quake was described as the "strongest (to have hit the town) in eight years."

Based on a survey conducted by the Municipal Disaster and Coordinating Council, 1,065 houses suffered damages during the quake.

The pupils of the Can-avid Central Elementary School may be in for a long vacation as two school buildings with eight classrooms were declared beyond repair.

The Can-avid Bridge has been opened to traffic and has been declared safe, although its approach has yet to be repaired. The approach of the bridge sank by about five inches.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council was still awaiting assessment reports. It will convene today to determine how much money will be released from the province's calamity fund.



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Bad TV reception during Pacquiao bout turns out fatal for boxing fanatic

ILIGAN CITY—Romeo de la Cruz was a solid Manny Pacquiao fan and followed the southpaw's every bout with great enthusiasm.

On Saturday, De la Cruz, a traffic enforcer, decided to spend some time to fix his TV set's antenna to get a clearer picture of his idol's match with Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera.

The match proved to be Barrera's waterloo as he was beaten black and blue before his brother decided to stop the fight in the 11th round.

Of course, everyone knows Pacquiao, the former baker from General Santos, won the match.

But the 32-year-old De la Cruz, of Barangay Kalubihon here, would never know.

He never saw how his idol turned Barrera into a virtual punching bag.

The TV antenna that De la Cruz was repositioning for clearer reception around 9 a.m. on that day touched a power line causing his death by electrocution.

Marivic, De la Cruz's wife, said all her husband wanted was a clear reception of the TV signal.

That day, the reception was very bad.

"So (Romeo) climbed the roof of our house and brought down the TV aerials, hoping the weak signal would get better," she told the INQUIRER.

Kristie Mae, the victim's 7-year-old daughter, said her father jerked violently and fell lifeless on the ground.

Marivic said they rushed him to the hospital but efforts to revive him failed.

"I already admonished him against moving the antenna, or to repair it only in the afternoon," Marivic said.

But she said her husband would not listen.

"If not for his high regard and strong admiration for Pacquiao, my husband would still be alive today. That is why I don't feel like watching Pacquiao anymore, it will only remind me of my husband," Marivic said. *Jeffrey Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

CHRISTMAS WAIT
A vendor sits in front of his display of Christmas lanterns on Tiongco Street in Davao City awaiting the arrival of buyers that would usher in a few bucks for him and the spirit of the holidays in Davao's homes.

ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

POSTED ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2003

BATANGAS (BATANGAS CITY)

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30PM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOLBOK 34ZV

Along Gulod-Tabangao Road from Gulod Labac to and including Meralco-Bolbok substation, Bos. Bilogo, Paharang, Tolo, Sampaga, Catandala, San Pedro, Mahacot East, Gulod Itaas, Kumintang Ilaya, Kumintang Ibaba, Hilltop and Calicanto.

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BOLBOK 323ZV AND 34ZV

Along Gulod-Tabangao Road from Gulod Labac to and including Bos. Ambulong, Tabangao, San Isidro, San Miguel, Mahabang Dahilig, Malalim, Tacad, Sirang Lupa, Conde Labac, Domuclay, Sitio Ginto, Sitio Piko, Talumpok Kanluran and Libjo.

REASON: Clearance on NPC 69 kV transmission line along Gulod-Tabangao Road in Batangas City, Batangas.

SUNDAY TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23-24, 2003

PARAÑAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 10:00PM (TUE.,11/23/03) AND 6:00AM (WED.,11/24/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SUN VALLEY 425WG

Portion of West Service Road of South Super Highway from near Edison Ave. to near Merville Ave. including Hydro Resources Contractors Corp., Phil. Handicrafts, La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, Honda Cars, Smith-Bell and Altech in Bgy. Merville.

REASON: Conductor stringing and pole dressing in preparation for new feeder from Meralco-Sun Valley substation. (422WG).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

BULACAN (PANDI AND ANGAT)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Along Encanto Road from Meralco-Angat substation to Siling Matanda Road in Angat.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Pandi town proper, Bgys. Malibong Matanda, Manggahan, Lalakhan, Malibong Bata, Bunsuran and Pulang Lupa including General Milling Corp. Farms, Shell Gas Station and Pinong Road in Pandi.

REASON: Pole dressing and pole erection in preparation for partial conversion of circuit Angat 33YT from 7.6 kV to 20 kV system.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24-25, 2003

MANILA (BINONDO)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON.,11/24/03)) AND 4:30AM (TUE.,11/25/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 51H-BINONDO 43N

Portion of Numancia and Asuncion Sts. from Muelle dela Industria to C.M.Recto including City Plaza Tower at Plaza del Conde, Gedisco Towers, Chinatown Steel Towers, CDC Bldg. and SHC Towers along Caballero St.

Portion of C.M.Recto Ave. from Juan Luna to Asuncion including Tantamount Plaza, portion of Tabora and C. Planas Sts.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Asuncion near San Nicolas Sts. in Binondo, Manila.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2003

BULACAN (BALIWAG)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 33YW

Portion of Baliwag town proper including J.M. Basa, E. delos Angeles, A. Luna, Guzman Sts. and Prima Berde General Merchandising.

REASON: Reconductoring works in Baliwag town proper, Bulacan.

PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 2:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PASAY 27U-15U

Portion of EDSA from M. Dela Cruz Ext. to Tramo St. including Victory Liner Bus-Pasay Terminal.

Portion of Vergel St. from Taft Ave. to Cabrera St. including P. Lopez St.

Portion of Tramo St. from EDSA to L. Francisco St.

Portion of Cabrera and Tolentino St. from EDSA to and including Esguerra, D. Jorge, J. Luna, M. De Jesus, Gamban, Viscarra, Bautista, Vergel Ext. Sts. and MDD Apartments.

Portion of M. Dela Cruz St. from Protacio St. to near Dolores St. including Sampaguita, Ilang-Ilang, Camia, Champaca, Basilio, Rodriguez and Canoy Sts. in Bgy. San Roque.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 2:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PASAY 27U-15U

Portion of Dimasalang, Protacio Sts. and Taft Ave. from near Vergel St. to near Dolores St. including Associated Anglo-American Tobacco in Bgy. San Roque.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and line rehabilitation works along Dimasalang St. in Bgy. San Roque, Pasay City.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25-26, 2003

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE.,11/25/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (WED.,11/26/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 49VJ

Portion of Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) from Paseo de Roxas to near EDSA including Anson's, The Landmark, New World Hotel, Vacation Hotel and Milky Way Restaurant in Legaspi Village.

Portion of Paseo de Roxas from Pasay Road to near Gamboa St. including Benavidez, Jimenez Sts., Asian Institute of Management, AIM-Acceed Bldg., Liberty Flour Mills, Asia Tower, Midland Mansion Condominium, One Corporate Plaza, Corporate Business Center, Dominion Bldg., Evikal Bldg., China Bank, GT Corporation, Fujitsu Phils., Banco Filipino, Concorde Condominium and Tiffany Tower in Legaspi Village.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE.,11/25/03) AND 5:30AM (WED.,11/26/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 49VJ

Portion of Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) from Pasong Tamo to near Paseo de Roxas including Caltex, Congo Grill, El Cielito Tourist Inn, St. John Bosco Parish, Salesiana Publishers, Sunvar Bldg. and Walter Mart-Makati in Kayamanan "B".

Portion of Amorsolo St. from Pasay Road to near Ponce St. including Brothers Burger, V & O Co. and Don Bosco Technical Institute in Kayamanan "B".

Major portion of San Lorenzo Village including Amorsolo, Rocha, Melantic, Tampingco, Zaragosa, Edades, Nakpil, Hidalgo, Joaquin, Apostol, Tolentino, Balmori, Juan Luna, Zipper, Abelardo Sts., San Lorenzo Drive, Zulueta Circle, portions of Garcia Villa, Ponce, Hernandez Sts., Assumption Convent and Assumption College.

REASON: 1. Replacement of rotten pole along Amorsolo St. inside San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.
2. Restoration of overhead static wires along Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) in Legaspi Village, Makati City.

MANILA (PACO AND MALATE)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE.,11/25/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI.,11/26/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TEGEN 43B; AND MALATE 22J

Portion of Singalong St. from Pedro Gil in Paco to Kap. Tikong St. in Malate including portion of Perez, G. Apacible, Looban, J. Escoda, Dart, Gen. Luna, Pedro Gil, Gen. Malvar, Remedios, San Isidro, F. Muñoz, A. Francisco, Zapanta and Dagonoy Sts. in Malate.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE.,11/25/03) AND 6:00AM (FRI.,11/26/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TEGEN 43B; AND MALATE 22J

Portion of San Andres St. from San Marcelino to near South Super Highway including Smith, Anakbayan, Texas, Mataas na Lupa, portion of Singalong, F. Muñoz, C. Aragon and Fermin Sts. in Malate.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along San Andres near A. Linao Sts. in Malate, Manila.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2003

MARIKINA CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 3:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 53VG

Portion of A. Bonifacio Ave. from Marcos Highway to near J. Cobarrubias St. including Loyola Memorial Park Cpd. and portion of Lopez Jaena St. in Bgy. Barangka.

REASON: Various maintenance works inside Meralco-Marikina substation in Katipunan Ave., Q. C.

LAGUNA (SAN PABLO CITY)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOTOCAN 22D

Portion of Provincial Road from Sitio Bluyan to Bgy. Sto. Anghel.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAN PABLO II 43WJ; AND BOTOCAN 22D

Portion of Provincial Road from Lozada Subd. in Bgy. Concepcion to Bgy. Sto. Anghel including Pook Kandaba, Bgys. Sta. Isabel, San Diego and Calibato.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and replacement of contaminated insulators along Provincial Road in Bgys. Sto. Anghel and Calibato, San Pablo City, Laguna.

LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ AND PILA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. CRUZ 32WF, 33WF, 34WF AND 35WF

The whole town of Sta. Cruz and Pila in Laguna.

REASON: NPC-Transco works along NPC 115kV Kalayaan-Calilraya transmission lines.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2003

BULACAN (MALOLOS)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TABANG 33YH

Portion of McArthur Highway, Sta. Isabel, Lucero and Crisostomo Sts. from Meralco-Tabang substation to and including Malolos Public Market, Areta, Jose Caluag, Dakila, Balite Sts., Sto. Cristo-Mabolo Road, St. Ignatius Vill., William Ville-2, Malolos Water District, Samson & Centino Subd., M. H. del Pilar High School and Bgy. Mabolo.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and various maintenance works along McArthur Highway, Sta. Isabel, Lucero and Crisostomo Sts. in Malolos, Bulacan.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2003

MANILA (TONDO)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TUTUBAN 53VT

The whole of Tutuban Center Cluster Buildings 1 & 2, Primeblock Building and Robinson Dept. Store

REASON: Testing of Tutuban substation circuit breaker in preparation for the commissioning of new circuit Tutuban 52VT.

BULACAN (BALIWAG)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 322YW

Portion of Baliwag Town Proper including D. Angeles, J.Burgos, Fatima Sts., portions of J.M. Basa and Gil Carlos Sts., PNB, Equitable PCI Bank, Metrobank, San Rafael Retail, Baliuag Colleges, Expressions Stationery Shop and Asian College of Science and Technology.

REASON: Installation of new line switch along Gil Carlos St. in Baliwag Town Proper, Bulacan.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION CIRCUIT OF DILIMAN 43VU

Along BF Road and Sampaguita St. from near Commonwealth Ave. to and including BF Homes Subd., Doña Juana Subd., Mapayapa Village I, II & III, Holy Spirit School Cpd., FEU Compound, Ferndale Hills, Granwood Villas, Kapalaran Subd. and Isadora Hills Subd. in Bgys. Holy Spirit and Pasong Tamo.

REASON : Reconductoring of existing primary lines to give way to the expansion of Kaybiga feeders along Narra St. in Mapayapa Village, Quezon City.

CAVITE (DASMARINAS AND GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ABUBOT 37XZ AND 38XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to near Meralco-Pala-Pala substation including Villa Luisa Homes, portion of Don Placido Campo Road, Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Via Verde Village, Canlimbuhan Rice Mill, St. Charbel South, Cityland Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lankaan, Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego in Dasmariñas; Bo. San Francisco, Ridgewood Estates, Tierra Nevada Subd., Pabahay 2000, Monterey Farms, Berlite Industries, Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, ADC Ready Mix, Bgy. Manggahan, Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.

Along Congressional Road from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to DBB Highway including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village in Dasmariñas.

Along DBB Highway including Burol I and II, Area H, Sta. Fe, Fatima I, Umakap Ka Cpd., Cluster A, Fatima III, Area E, San Antonio de Padua, Cluster N, Sta. Maria, San Francisco, Cluster B, Citihomes, Bo. San Mateo, Cluster D, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Area C, Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmarinas.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 32XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to near Villa Luisa Homes including Asuncion Subd., Camerino Ave., Don Placido Campo Drive, Dasmaville, Alcantara Subd., Medinaville Subd., Satellite Homes, Fiesta Homes Subd., St. Maryville, Emerald Crest, Wood Estate Village in Bo. San Jose, Solar Homes, Marycris Complex and Dexterville Subd. in Dasmariñas.

Parklane Homes in Bo. San Francisco, Sitios Kanuluhan, Elang, Maralas, Bos. Santiago, Ipilan and Pasong Camachile in Gen. Trias.

REASON: Various maintenance works inside Meralco-Abubot substation.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

For more information, please contact our **CALL CENTER** at telephone number **16211**, fax nos. **1622-8556** and **1622-8554**, or e-mail address **callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph**. For faster resolution of inquiries, please use the *Bill ID Number or Service Identification Number (SIN)* indicated in your electric bills.

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Troops seize arms in terror suspect's home

COTABATO CITY—Military and police authorities seized an arms cache from a fish trader as they intensified their manhunt against suspected members of the Jemaah Islamiya here.

The manhunt has been going on despite another denial from the military's highest official in Mindanao of reports on the presence of JI operatives on the island.

Senior Supt. Isnaji Bantala, newly installed police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said they were still trying to find out if the suspect, identified as Baraguir Arap, has links with the terror group.

Bantala said tactical interrogation of Arap was continuing following his arrest during a raid here.

The raid on Arap's home yielded two Carbines.

Silvino Cinches, director of the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Mindanao, confirmed the existence of a JI cell in the city.

But in Zamboanga City, an apparently irked Southern Command chief Roy Kyamko said he would not issue statements anymore if these concern the JI "until we get actual physical evidence of their presence here."

Kyamko's denial about the continued presence of JI operatives on the island came a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo said terrorists had set foot in Mindanao.

In General Santos City, the military confirmed that Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani slipped past a military cordon in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.

Janjalani's group serves as one of JI's cells in the Philippines.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, 601st Army Brigade commander, told the INQUIRER that they received reports Janjalani had been sighted in Cotabato City.

"Yes, Janjalani was no longer in the area. He was sighted somewhere in Cotabato City. He could easily leave the area using so many escape routes," Yano said. *Charlie Señase, Julie Alipala and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Dumaguete execs seek to block sex flick

By Romy Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The city government has appealed to theater owners and operators here not to show the film that is mainly based on the pornographic video called the "Dumaguete Sex Scandal."

Mayor Agustin Perdices, Vice Mayor William Ablong and the 12-member city council sent a letter of appeal Nov. 19 to the three theaters here.

The city officials asked the theater owners to cooperate with the city government in its efforts to prevent the showing of the movie "Sex Scandal," which puts the city in a bad light.

They also reminded the theater operators of the tax holidays granted to them by the city. In return, the city officials asked the theater owners to also help them in their campaign to protect the name of Dumaguete.

The movie is reportedly based on sex scandals in Cebu and Dumaguete.

ROUNDUP

Tordesillas; 83

ELISA Toting Tordesillas of Guisijan, Lauan-an, Antique died on Nov. 13 after a lingering illness. She was 83. Tordesillas, widow of Russel, is survived by her children Rosario Angeles, Elbert and Dina, Malaya columnist Ellen Tordesillas and Ronnie and Eva and her grandchildren. Her body lies at her home in Guisijan. Burial details will be announced later.

Ex-DFA official Gutoc; 56

FORMER diplomat Candidato Gutoc died of liver failure on Nov. 6 in Cagayan de Oro. Gutoc was professor at the Mindanao State University and served as assistant secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Gutoc rose from the ranks to become one of the country's most senior Muslim diplomat. He was buried in accordance with Islamic rites on Nov. 6 at his home in Barrio Bangon, Marawi City. He would have turned 57 on Nov. 25. Gutoc started his career in the foreign service as head of the all-Muslim staff at the embassy in Jeddah. Ex-ambassador to Saudi Lininding Pangandaman said Gutoc played a key role in having oil supply restored to the Philippines during the oil embargo of the 1970s.

21 hurt in bus crash

BAGUIO CITY—Twenty-one people were hurt Wednesday when a bus bound for Baguio plunged into a ravine in Kapangan, Benguet, five hours from here, the Office of Civil Defense said. The Dangwa bus was negotiating a slippery incline at Sitio Buyot in Barangay Balacbac in Kapangan when it fell 129 feet below. The injured were taken to the Benguet General Hospital in the capital town of La Trinidad for treatment. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cebu Lakas leader dies

CEBU CITY—The administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats has lost one of its leaders in Cebu province. Former Lapulapu City Mayor Ernest Weigle Jr., Lakas chair in Lapulapu, Mactan Island, died of a heart attack on Monday night. He was 70. Weigle was declared dead by doctors at the Mactan Community Hospital at about 8:07 p.m. on Monday. Weigle served three consecutive terms as mayor of Lapulapu from 1992 to 2001. He was planning to run again for mayor in the 2004 elections. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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MC HOME DEPOT

DOUBLE WEEKEND SALE

NOVEMBER

21 22 23 28 29 30

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Ortigas cor Meralco Ave., Pasig City

Fort Bonifacio
32nd St. cor. Bonifacio Blvd., Global City, Taguig Metro Mla.

Makati
EDSA cor. Pasong Tamo St. Makati City

PROMO MECHANICS

1. A customer who makes a single receipt purchase of P1,000.00 and above from the main hardware, lifestyle, or any of the showrooms in any of the three (3) MC Home Depot branches in Makati, Ortigas and Fort Bonifacio during the Double Weekend Sale shall be entitled to one (1) Pop Card.

2. Accumulated purchases from the main hardware, lifestyle, showrooms or a combination of both would also be allowed provided that the purchases are made within the same day and in the same branch.

3. Once an customer receives the MC Pop Card, he/she may proceed to the designated area to reveal if he/she won an instant prize.

4. Each Pop Card is limited to only one (1) instant prize.

5. A customer who picks a winning MC Pop Card and claims his instant prize at designated redemption center within the 3 days period of MC Home Depot where the customer made the purchase, must present to show the winning MC Pop Card to claim his instant prize.

6. Customers with winning MC Pop Cards are encouraged to immediately claim their prizes. MC Home Depot would honor unclaimed instant prizes sixty (60) days after the end of the Double Weekend Sale.

7. All prizes are non-exchangeable to cash, credit or other items.

8. Employees of MC Home Builder's Depot (Makati), MC Home Depot (Ortigas) and MC Home Depot (Fort Bonifacio) both its suppliers and accredited agencies including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Highlights
Decomaster
AluMix RESEARCH LIVING STRUCTURAL SYSTEM FLEXBOARD
GUTTERSHIELD
Hans Flooring
TIMBERCO TIMBER PRODUCTS
ELDORADO STONE
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DeltaWood Quality Woodworks
DELTA CLASSIC
GLOBEMASTER
Han-Gang LDPE FOAM
STONE AGE PRODUCTS Manufactured Stones for Walls & Floors
BATH
OSRAM METAL-LITE
PRIT Supply & Installation of Natural Granite, Marble, Homogeneous Granite Tile & Substrates
EBEA
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LIGHT METAL FRAMES
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ROBLES HERITAGE
Stained Glass Overlay
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GARDENA
Makita
MARIWASA CERAMIC WALL TILES
MULIA GLASS BLOCK

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 3449 series of 2003

Top kidnap gang busted

From page A1

He said the group was behind the abduction of a daughter of a pawnshop owner in Angeles City last week. The victim had been rescued.

Death sentence

Obeles was also involved in six other kidnappings, including that of Florliz So in Pasay City in November 2000 for which he was sentenced to death "in absentia" in July last year, according to Reyes.

"He was a sugar trader of Chinese descent. That was why he had incurred the ire of the Chinese community because he was a Chinese-Filipino but he was the one preying on the community," he said.

De Leon said the gang had collected as much as P5 million in ransom from victims Gonzalo Go, Baby Ongson, Evaristo Co, Pilar Pelayo and a certain Sayson.

Obeles' group operated mainly in Metro Manila and maintained safe houses in areas such as Bataan and Olongapo City, according to an official of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team.

Cop killed

Police were about to serve an arrest warrant on Yap and his cohorts at his apartment in Barangay Bangal when the suspects fired an M203 grenade launcher, killing PO1 Joselito Esguerra and wounding Senior Supt. Jimmy Restua, Chief Insp. Florentino de la Cruz, PO2 Emerito Ramos, PO2 Emmet Nunag and PO1 Juan Carlos Bustos.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon director, awarded Restua a "wounded personnel medal" after the officer suffered multiple shrapnel wounds.

Besides Yap, the three other unidentified gang members were killed in the encounter, according to the report of Supt. Abelardo Villacorta, chief of the PNP Central Luzon operations and plans division. Two other gang members, Aling Abad and Vida Nicdao, were arrested.

Querol said authorities seized an M203 grenade launcher, and an M-16 and M-14 rifles from the suspects.

With the busting of the Obeles KFR gang, Reyes said that active kidnap gangs in Luzon were down to five. He declined to identify them.

The successful operation against the Obeles group came a day after the Naktaf arrested three suspects in the abduction and murder of Sy. Although Sy was only the fourth kidnap victim since Reyes assumed his post on Oct. 28, his political opponents have demanded his resignation for alleged incompetence.

Reyes yesterday shrugged off the criticism, telling reporters at Camp Crame that this would only prod him to work harder.

More arrested

Naktaf operatives arrested Wednesday night three more suspects in the Sy case.

Backed by operatives from the Southern and Western Police Districts, Naktaf agents stormed a house on Albina Street in Sta. Mesa, Manila, and arrested three men at around 8:30 p.m., according to Senior Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief.

Waray chief

Police officials refused to divulge the names of the suspects, saying investigators were still trying to extract details from them that could lead to the arrest of the remaining members of the Waray gang, the group believed to be responsible for the Sy kidnap-slay.

From the Sta. Mesa safe house, the suspects were brought to Pacer headquarters in Camp Crame where they were interrogated.

As of yesterday, authorities were still looking for at least 15 other members of the Waray gang, according to Estilles. Among them are alleged leader JR, Kulot, Rudy, Babes and Edith Alesar.

Leader

JR is in his early 30s, about 5'8" tall with curly black hair and of medium build, according to Estilles.

"Based on our initial investigation," he said, "there were around 20 gang members, including the negotiators, who participated in the kidnapping of Sy."

Driver's story

Quoting Romeo Vallano, who had turned himself in and admitted that he was the one who had driven Sy to his group's Cavite safe house, Estilles said the driver and the victim were accompanied by nine other gang members on board a Toyota Tamaraw FX. The vehicle was recovered in Merville Park Avenue in Parañaque.

In Trece Martirez, the official said Babes and Alesar received the suspects and their victim at the house at Block 114, Lot 4, Heritage Homes in Barangay Gregorio.

He said Vallano had admitted that Sy was already dead by the time they arrived at the safe house so the suspects wrapped her body with a blanket and plastic garbage bags.

Neighbors told police that Babes had been renting the house on Lot 4 for at least two months prior to the raid at around noon on Wednesday. Alesar was said to be the owner of the nearby house on Lot 18 where police arrested suspects Ernesto Palla and Ramon Dimol.

Before Sy was taken to Cavite, police believe she was inadvertently shot by her abductors to force her to open the door of her Toyota RAV4 in Quezon City on Monday.

Already dead

Although the victim was already dead when she was driven to Trece Martirez, Estilles said the suspects still phoned the victim's family and demanded a P10-million ransom.

Quoting the official autopsy report on Sy's body, Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District director, yesterday said the victim died of "hemorrhagic shock secondary to gunshot wounds" in her right thigh. Gutierrez also denied reports that Sy had been sexually abused before she was killed. *With a report from Allan Macatuno*

GMA gets facts wrong on slain kidnappers

SHE SPOKE too soon.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that the death of the country's top kidnap gang leader in a shoot-out with police solved the abduction and murder of Betti Sy.

"I would like to announce that the kidnappers of the Coca-Cola executive have been caught. The others have been killed in an encounter, including their leader, the notorious No. 1 kidnapper in the order of battle, Roberto Yap," Ms Macapagal said at the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress in Baguio City.

Her announcement drew applause from the more than 3,000 delegates to the ad congress.

But anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes said police had not established that Yap's group was behind the abduction of Sy, who was found dead in Parañaque on Tuesday a day after she was seized in Quezon City.

"He's not connected to the Waray gang involved in the killing of Betti Sy," said Teresita Ang-See, spokesperson of the Citizens Action Against Crime. "Yap is even more notorious than the Waray gang," she added.

The Waray gang had been identified as Sy's abductor and murderer.

The President said "the quick solution of the Coca-Cola executive's slay was a combination of strong barangay vigilance and swift police and inter-agency response."

"Let us show these criminals that the law never sleeps and they cannot escape it," she added.

Ricardo Saludo, deputy presidential spokesperson, blamed the speech writer of the President for the wrong information.

"We shall check that the speech writing group that assisted the President in drafting her speech take corrective action," Saludo said at a briefing. "We apologize to the President for this error, which is unfortunate."

The Citizens' Battle Against Corruption party-list group yesterday urged authorities to look into the possible link between the resurgence of kidnap-for-ransom activities and the national elections in May 2004.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation acknowledged that the resurgence was connected to the fund-raising activities of some politicians.

Anti-kidnap program

Five congressmen asked Reyes and police officials to come up with a comprehensive program against kidnapping.

Representatives Prospero Pichay, Robert "Ace" Barbers, Reynaldo Uy, Eduardo Veloso and Assistant Majority Leader Allan Peter Cayetano said Reyes and the police should not rest on their laurels as a result of the arrest of Sy's kidnappers.

Reyes, who was named chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) last month, has tapped agents of the newly revived National Capital Region Command and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the government's fresh drive against kidnap gangs.

A team each from the NCRC's Anti-Crime Task Force and the Isafp's Military Intelligence Group has been placed under the operational control of Naktaf, said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer.

"Basically, they are providing a supportive role, to include personnel and equipment, and their expertise in intelligence," he told reporters. "It (Naktaf) is a commission organized by the President, so we got the mandate to support it."

Reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Gil Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila

California heroes . . .

From page A1

of Manny "Pac-Man" Pacquiao on Wednesday to have a group photo with the Filipino boxer who wowed them on HBO last week.

The uniformed firefighters, all of whom were six-footers, towered over Pacquiao, who is only 5 feet, 6 1/2 inches tall. But they stood in awe of the International Boxing Federation junior featherweight champion who knocked out Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera, widely considered the world's best featherweight, in a non-title fight on Saturday night.

Impressed

"They told me they were impressed by my speed and power," Pacquiao told the INQUIRER after accommodating the request of the firefighters for a group photo.

The firefighters, who recently battled the worst firestorm in California's history, were attending a city event at Glendale's Cove Restaurant, where a small group of Filipino-American community leaders were also hosting a luncheon for Pacquiao.

The firefighters had braved fires that killed at least 16 people, destroyed 2,000 homes and businesses, and charred nearly three-quarters of a million acres in southern California.

When the firefighters learned that Pacquiao was also at the restaurant, however, they hurriedly sought out the boxer at the function room next door.

Pinoy hospitality

Luncheon organizers showed the firefighters Filipino hospitality and welcomed the unexpected guests.

"Our American heroes are here to see our very own Filipino hero," broadcast journalist Thelma Aranda, who emceed the event, announced over the microphone.

The firefighters watched the fight between Pacquiao and Barrera at the Alamodo in San Antonio, Texas, which was aired live on HBO on Saturday night. Pacquiao, nicknamed Pac-Man by his American fans, used superior hand speed and a relentless attack to score a surprise knockout of Barrera late in the 11th round.

Role model

"I'm so happy I did our country proud," Pacquiao told Filipino-Americans at the luncheon. "I raised the Philippine flag in another country."

The 24-year-old boxer, who hopes to be a role model for the youth, said he couldn't wait to get home.

A hero's welcome awaits Pacquiao upon his return to Manila tonight. General Santos City has also prepared a rousing welcome for its favorite son, who normally tours depressed communities after winning boxing bouts.

Meeting GMA

President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to meet with Pacquiao in Malacañang on Monday. She has promised the boxing champion a special gift upon his return.

In a statement issued after the Filipino boxer's stunning victory, Ms Macapagal said Pacquiao "serves as an inspiration for our poor countrymen to someday also succeed."

"Manny Pacquiao has proven that we are world-class, that we also have a chance to triumph," she said.

The House of Representatives has likewise passed a resolution awarding Pacquiao its first Congressional Medal of Honor.

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BLIMS fine furniture

'G-factor' crucial to Kabayan's decision to run

From page A1

in his party had "opened earnest conversations" with De Castro about being President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate in the May elections.

Alvarez said the Lakas party he represents has no strong vice presidential candidate, which was why it had to invite De Castro.

He did not explain, however, why Sen. Robert Barbers from Surigao, or even Drilon himself, who is from Iloilo, were not considered strong candidates.

Not sleepless

He said a GMA-De Castro ticket could take on a possible team-up of movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

No one can surpass Legarda's popularity except De Castro, he said.

"With a GMA-De Castro ticket, you're not going to be sleepless. *Tabla-tabla na ang laban* (The fight will be even)," Alvarez said.

No deal

De Castro, who is also known as Kabayan (countryman) because of his TV shows, continued to play coy yesterday.

"I don't know about the deal," said De Castro in a chance interview in the Senate. "Ask SP (Senate President Drilon). I don't know about it."

When pressed to give a definite answer, he said: "Deal *ko lang kapakanan ng tao, ng bayan* (I will only enter into a deal which will benefit the people)."

Running for higher office because the Lopez family would like him to was not enough reason to do so, he said.

"*Mahirap na naman 'yon ang magiging* basis *ko lang* (That can't be the only basis)" he said.

He emphasized that at the end of the day, it would be him, not the Lopezes, who would be blamed by the public if he were to run for a position he was not competent enough to assume.

A prominent member of the Lopez family, Fernando, brother of the patriarch Don Eugenio, served as vice president for several years.

Of Gabby Lopez, he said: "Well, he's my boss. What, for more than 17 years? *Sila amo ko, syempre tatanungin rin. Di naman* encourage, but just like *tumakbo sa* Senate, *sabi nila kung anong gusto mo susuportahan taka* (The Lopezes are my bosses, so I can ask for their opinions. But they are not encouraging me (to run). Just like when I ran for the Senate, they told me that they would support me regardless of my decision)."

He declined to comment on whether Legarda, his fellow broadcaster, would also get the same support from the business empire.

Demolition job

In Malacañang, the President's chief of staff, Rigoberto Tiglao, denied that Ms Macapagal had made a deal with De Castro or with the Lopez family.

"That is a demolition job by the opposition," Tiglao said. "Obviously they are terrified by that prospect," he said, referring to a GMA-De Castro team-up.

Tiglao also defended De Castro from insinuations he would be made a pawn by the Lopez group to get concessions for its many business interests from Malacañang.

"Senator De Castro has his own mind and he will not be a puppet of any group, family or corporation. He has a stature of his own as a tedious and well-respected broadcaster enough for him to transcend any unprincipled (dealings)," Tiglao said.

Consult with allies

But Tiglao said Ms Macapagal has not made up her mind about tapping De Castro to be her running mate. He stressed that the President has not spoken with De Castro.

"I would think the President would still consult with her allies," he said.

But if De Castro would be asked to be the President's running mate, Tiglao had this to say: "It would be a recognition by the President of the people's judgment ,that the senator has the integrity and honesty to be Vice President and be the understudy for future leader of the country under a good and experienced leader and mentor." ***With reports from Juliet Javellana, Norman Bordadora***

Guingona also rises as he leads 'Bangon!'

From page A1

rel that is allocated for the pet infrastructure projects of senators and congressmen.

- Periodic performance audit reports on the justice system and the progress of administrative cases against its members.
- Close monitoring of the modernization program of the Commission on Elections and evaluating its preparations for the May elections.

He said Bangon hoped to instill "a renewed sense of love of country among Filipinos, while also harnessing their productive energies to rebuild the country."

Parted ways with GMA

Guingona parted ways with the Macapagal administration over the terms of reference of the joint RP-US Balikatan military exercises. He also quit the ruling Lakas-CMD party and resigned as foreign secretary, which had led some political observers to write him off as "politically dead."

'Plastic rhetoric'

In his speech, Guingona also deplored what he termed "pretended power" and "plastic rhetoric" from the country's leaders.

He explained that "pork barrel per se is not evil, and a number of lawmakers, both national and local, have used them honestly to lift the lives of their constituencies, but gigantic abuses bred by greed have degraded the nation."

Citing figures of the House appropriations committee chair Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., Guingona said that P21 billion of the government's P104-billion budget in 2001 went to the pocket of legislators, officials and contractors.

Another of Bangon's immediate concern is a program of action for a clean and credible election, "because without a clean and credible election we shall surely end up a nation worse divided, headed to perdition," Guingona said.

Public exposure

Guingona warned grafters in government that Bangon would undertake a "relentless" campaign against graft and corruption.

"Many say that because of the brazen betrayal of public trust, reforms within the system are no longer possible. We will seek correction, rectification and restitution. But if those accountable do not accept responsibility, if those who should right the wrongs do not do so, then we will denounce them publicly," the Vice President said.

Judicial reforms

He also said that Bangon would tackle judicial reforms.

"Justice in the land is not only slow but seemingly selective. One for the rich and powerful, another for the poor and powerless," he said, noting that the Supreme Court failed to act on 739 administrative complaints filed against judges and justices and still had 727 complaints to dispose of as of Dec. 31, 2002.

Bangon will insist on the periodic performance audit reports of the justice system and the progress of administrative cases against its components.

These, he said, would include the Supreme Court, all other courts, the justice department's National Prosecution Service, and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Saying that he had no intention of running in 2004 though "many had asked" him to, Guingona said, "I shall stand by the people. I shall act with them. And hopefully rise with them for the change and progress enshrined in our programs," he added.

Prominent names

Among those present at the launch were Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Guinigundo Jr., presidential adviser for Southern Luzon Cesar Sarino, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales, former Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Quintin Doromal Jr.

Former University of the Philippines law dean Merlin Magallona, youth leaders Gerald Ortiz and Isko Catibayan, Cabanatuan Bishop Sofio Balce, Fr. Joe Dizon, economist Sixto Roxas, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teddy Casino, labor leader Fil Joson, Jimmy Janalang of the Christian-Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

Actress Pilar Pilapil, Nepa secretary general Jimmy Regalario, UP professor Rene Ofreneo, and other representatives from the youth, domestic and overseas Filipino workers, Church, business and academe. *Jerome Aning*

Michael Jackson wanted for child molestation

From page A1

maintained his innocence.

Latest victim

Prosecutors said the latest molestation case was different from the 1993 case because the alleged victim is cooperating with authorities.

Media reports and a Jackson family lawyer said the latest accusations had been made by a 12-year-old boy, but police and prosecutors refused to give details.

The "Celebrity Justice" television show said the supposed acts were first revealed to the child's therapist.

Brian Oxman, a lawyer who has represented the Jackson family over the years, told CBS that the alleged molestation took place at Neverland Ranch, the storybook playground where the singer has been known to hold sleepover parties with children. Oxman is not representing Jackson.

Jacko in Vegas

Jackson's spokesperson dismissed the accusations as "scurrilous and totally unfounded."

"The outrageous allegations against Michael Jackson are false," said Stuart Backerman. "Michael would never harm a child in any way."

Backerman said Jackson and his lawyers had "already made arrangements with the district attorney to return to Santa Barbara to immediately confront and prove these charges unfounded."

Police sources said "Jacko" would likely turn himself in on Thursday. His entourage said he was still believed to be in Las Vegas where he has been filming a video for the past three weeks.

Lewd acts

Jackson was accused of violating Section 288(a) of the California penal code, which bars "lewd or lascivious acts" with a child younger than 14.

Each count carries a jail term of between three and eight years on conviction. The allegations are sealed in an affidavit that will remain secret for 45 days.

Backerman said Jackson was bearing up under the strain. "He's fine, he's a fighting man."

Damaging to career

Industry experts believe the new allegations are likely to seriously damage the already shaky public image and legendary musical career of the former child star who got his start with his brothers as a member of the singing-and-dancing Jackson 5.

TV special pulled out

CBS immediately pulled a Jackson music special planned for next Wednesday on his greatest hits.

On Tuesday, about 70 law enforcement officers spent 12 hours searching the Neverland Ranch, 32 km north of Santa Barbara, for corroborating evidence. The $12.3-million ranch has a mansion, its own zoo and amusement park.

Two other locations in southern California were also searched.

'Nothing sexual'

In a documentary broadcast on ABC earlier this year, Jackson said he had slept in a bed with many children.

"When you say bed you're thinking sexual," he said in the interview. "It's not sexual, we're going to sleep. I tuck them in ... It's very charming, it's very sweet."

Dreadful allegations

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Jackson denounced the media coverage of the raid and noted that "dreadful allegations" always seemed to surface "just as another project, an album, a video is being released."

Jackson's greatest hits album, "Number Ones," came out on Tuesday.

The district attorney said the investigation had been under way for a while, and the timing was unrelated to the album.

Jackson, a father of three, caused an uproar last year when he displayed his baby, Prince Michael II, to fans by dangling him from a fourth-floor balcony in Germany.

Reports of Jackson's financial troubles have mounted over the past couple of years: he was hit by a flurry of lawsuits by former aides and promoters, and by rumors that he is all but bankrupt as record sales slump.

Jackson will be represented by lawyer Mark Geragos, who is defending Scott Peterson against charges he murdered his wife, Laci, and their unborn child. *Reports from AFP, AP*

Enough space for archbishop and his dog

From page A1

chamber and office when he was still in robust health, was refurbished to host Rosales.

The guesthouse, which stands outside the main office building of the Arzobispado, has also been renovated in the past few months. It now bears a resemblance to the archbishop's home in Lipa.

Rosales' requests, however, were only for a small bed and a fax machine inside his room. He left most of his books and icons in his ancestral home in Lipa.

"There are two levels of preparations: the physical and spiritual. We are putting more energy into the spiritual," Auxiliary Bishop of Manila Socrates Villegas told the INQUIRER.

GMA at 'simple' reception

Rosales, who has spent most of his ministry in the provinces, said earlier he would have preferred a quiet and simple reception for him in Manila.

But the reception for Rosales, 71, would be far from simple. He will be received by President Macapagal-Arroyo, some 600 priests from Manila, Bukidnon and Batangas and around 100 bishops from all over the country during the installation rites this morning.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Cabinet members and local government officials are also expected to welcome Rosales.

Rosales, a known advocate for the environment, was last assigned in Manila as auxiliary bishop in 1982. He will replace Sin, who led the archdiocese of Manila for 29 years.

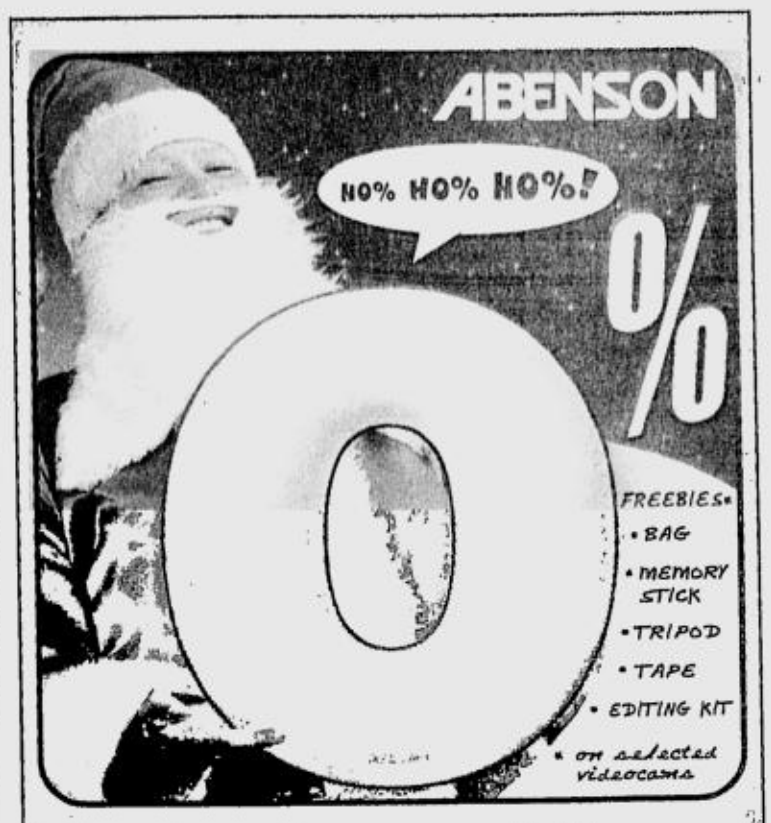
Pastoral letters

Rosales met the priests of the archdiocese of Manila last night at a special dinner in Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong, where Sin resides.

Sin had earlier issued two pastoral letters urging the priests to go on retreat and spiritually prepare themselves to receive their new shepherd. A special liturgical guide was also distributed for a triduum of Masses in all the parishes of the archdiocese.

The archdiocese has gifted Rosales with a staff and vestments, which he will wear in his installation.

"It is not so much our expectations of him, but what we, his priests, can do to make his ministry more fruitful for the flock... I guess it should be more what he expects of us," Villegas said.



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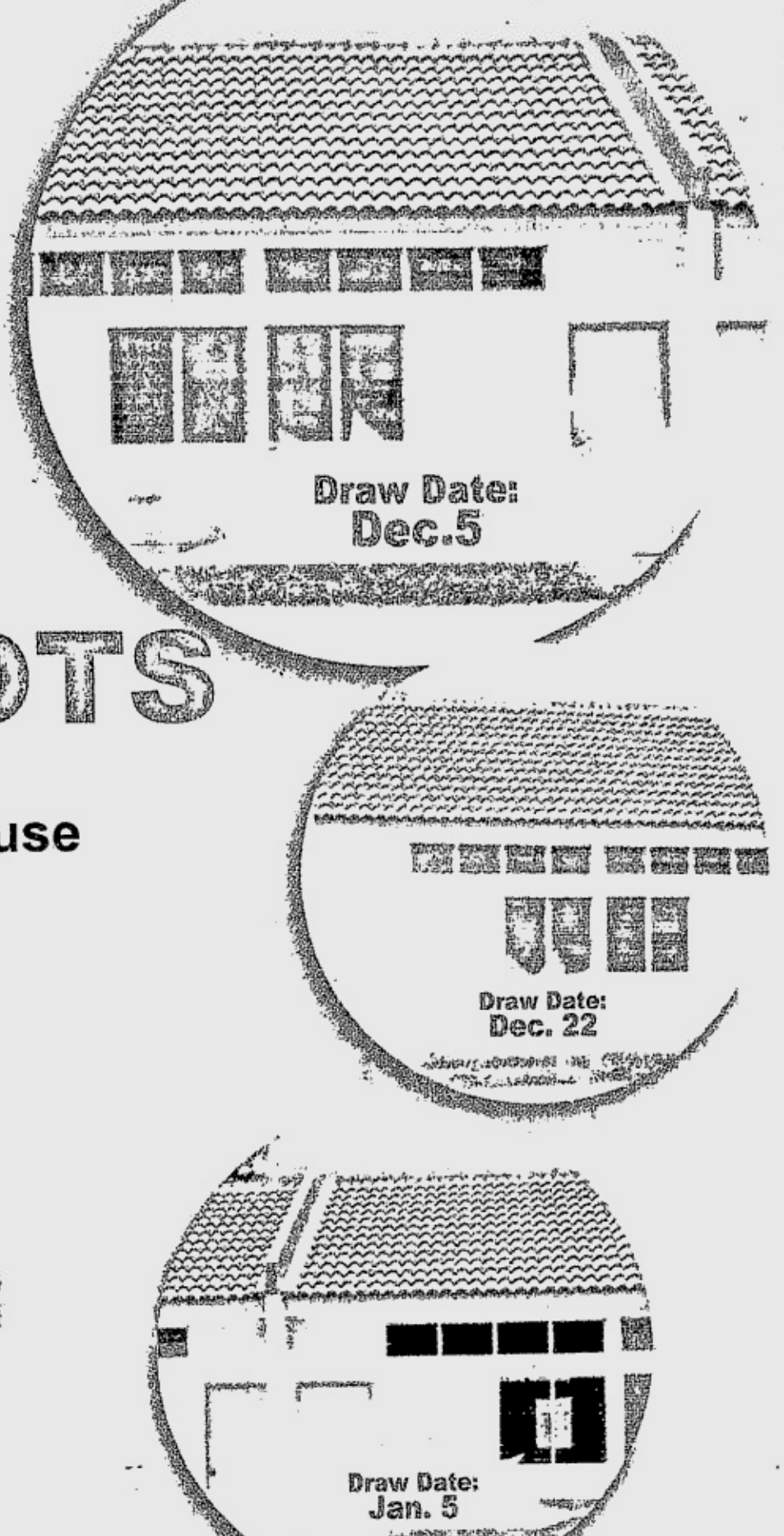

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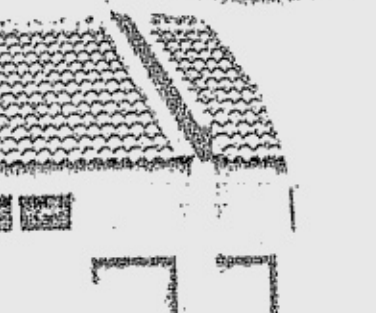

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METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

FIRE IN CALOOCAN

Residents run amuck, beat up 4 firefighters

RAGING residents proved more dangerous than the fire razing their houses.

Four firefighters on Wednesday night were injured when they responded to a fire that had hit a slum area in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City. They were mauled by residents who had wanted the firefighters to put out the fire in their respective houses first.

The three-hour fire, which began at about 10 p.m. at the corner of Gen. Tirona and Tirad Pass streets, left 500 families homeless. Damages were pegged at P10 million. City Fire Station chief Agapito Nacario yesterday said damages could have been cut down had the residents been more calm.

A witness told the INQUIRER that the residents got furious when firefighters hosed water on the surrounding factories first instead of the shanties. But a fireman said it was standard operating procedure to hose down structures that are not yet burning, instead of training the hoses on shanties that are already on fire.

Bagong Barrio Fire Station commander Robert Mendoza and F02 Mario Bagaman Mendoza were the first to arrive in the area.

But when they started to pull out the water hose, the residents tried to grab the nozzle to hose down their own houses. When the firefighters resisted, the residents beat them up.

Mendoza and Bagaman fled after they sustained bruises.

When the Chinese-Filipino volunteer fire brigade arrived, the residents again tried to grab the water hose. When one volunteer resisted, a resident stabbed him in the hand.

After seeing what had happened to the four men, the other firefighters who arrived later hesitated to operate in the area. Nacario said some of the residents were armed with knives and homemade guns.

The firefighters lost the nozzles of their hoses and other equipment during the attack. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Impeach raps still bug Davide

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

HIS EYES beamed as he posed for pictures with court employees. And for a moment, it seemed that he had gotten over his ordeal caused by a few congressmen who wanted him impeached.

However, his speech during the inauguration of the new Caloocan City judicial complex yesterday, showed that it was still very much in the mind of Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

He began his speech by drawing a parallelism on the Nov. 10 Supreme Court decision declaring as unconstitutional the second impeachment complaint against him and the location of the judicial complex, which was built on the city's 10th Avenue.

Later in his nearly 10-minute speech, he congratulated the city government for the inauguration of the new justice complex "at a time when there have been many serious assaults against the independence of the judiciary."

DAVIDE

And after stressing the importance of justice in a society, the Chief Justice added, "You cannot have a strong judiciary unless and until the value and virtue of independence is maintained and preserved at all times."

Several congressmen initiated a second impeachment complaint against Davide more than a month ago for alleged misappropriation of the Judiciary Development Fund.

The month-long controversy ended with the decision of the Supreme Court declaring the complaint unconstitutional and with Speaker Jose de Venecia abiding by the ruling.

Davide arrived ahead of the 8:30 a.m. schedule and earlier than most of the local officials. Court employees greeted him with posters saying "We support you."

After his speech, court and city hall employees slugged and elbowed their way to have their pictures taken with the Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice then walked through the crowd smiling, shaking hands with the employees.

Florinda Fernandez, who has been a stenographer at the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court Branch 120 for 12 years, told the INQUIRER that it was the first time that she saw Davide in the city.

And while she was also against the impeachment complaint against Davide, Fernandez said she was happy that court employees now knew of how the JDF was spent.

METROBRIEFS

Extort cops

P03 REYNALDO Ebdane, P03 Elpidio Juanito and P03 Jose Alvarez, of the Central Police District, have been charged with threat and extortion. The complainant, Quezon City businessman Roosevelt Clarence, told police that the suspects demanded P35,000 from him in exchange for his two .45-caliber guns which the three had confiscated. Clarence, who reportedly failed to show licenses for the guns, claimed the suspects even threatened to harm him if he refused to give the cash. *Tina Santos*

Life in prison

QUEZON City Judge Jose Paneda on Thursday found Francisco Te-Kiat guilty of robbery with homicide, and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The judge also ordered Te-Kiat to pay the family of victim Ming Chien Shien, a total of P17,120,000 in damages. The court found evidence to support the charge that Te-Kiat conspired with the gunman to kill Shien in Quezon City on Oct. 11, 2001. *Tina Santos*

Letran homecoming

LETRAN High School Class of 1978, this year's silver jubilarians, will host the grand alumni homecoming entitled "Fellowship of the Knights," at the school grounds in Intramuros, Manila on Nov. 22. For information, please call Dr. Lionel Javier (0917-4489048) or Mars Balgos (0917-8140787).

LOTTO RESULTS

SUERTRES
4 4 5

SIX DIGIT
(In exact order)
4 7 1 5 5 8

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
4 17 19 21 26 42

PDEA, WPD in near fire fight in Manila

By Leila B.Salaverria

AGENTS of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Western Police District almost traded shots on Wednesday afternoon during a buy-bust operation in Palanca, San Miguel, Manila.

The PDEA agents alleged that Muslim Affairs Office (MAO) officer Chief Insp. Hugo Amorillo, interfered with their buy-bust operation and caused the escape of a pusher they had arrested.

The anti-narcotics agents issued their statement to Palanca police community precinct commander Sr. Insp. Teresita Lim.

But WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said Amorillo had actually saved the PDEA agents from being mobbed by Palanca residents.

He said that after PDEA men allegedly nabbed a pusher named "Allan," the suspect cried out that he was being kidnapped.

Bulaong said Palanca residents then came out to help Allan and Amorillo only intervened.

However, PDEA agents told Lim that Amorillo grabbed the suspect after the latter's arrest.

During a tug-of-war for the suspect, PDEA and MAO agents reportedly drew their guns.

Allan fled amid the confusion.

Help prosecute suspects, gov't urges Dacer family

CHIEF State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño yesterday called on the family of slain public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer to get in touch with the justice department and help them strengthen the case against the murder suspects.

Zuño yesterday said that from the time the Dacer family went to the United States, they had not gotten in touch with government prosecutors, adding that their testimony would be important in the coming Dacer-Corbito trial.

Prosecutor Ruben Caretas said the testimony of the family is needed to certify that the dental plates found in Cavite belong to Dacer. He said even if the bodies of Dacer and Corbito had already been identified, the family would still have to repeat it in court.

Zuño yesterday also appealed to the Supreme Court to decide on the motion of some of the accused—Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar Mancao and Teofilo Viña—that they be excluded from the Dacer-Corbito murder trial. The trial cannot proceed unless the high court hands down its decision. *Leila Salaverria*

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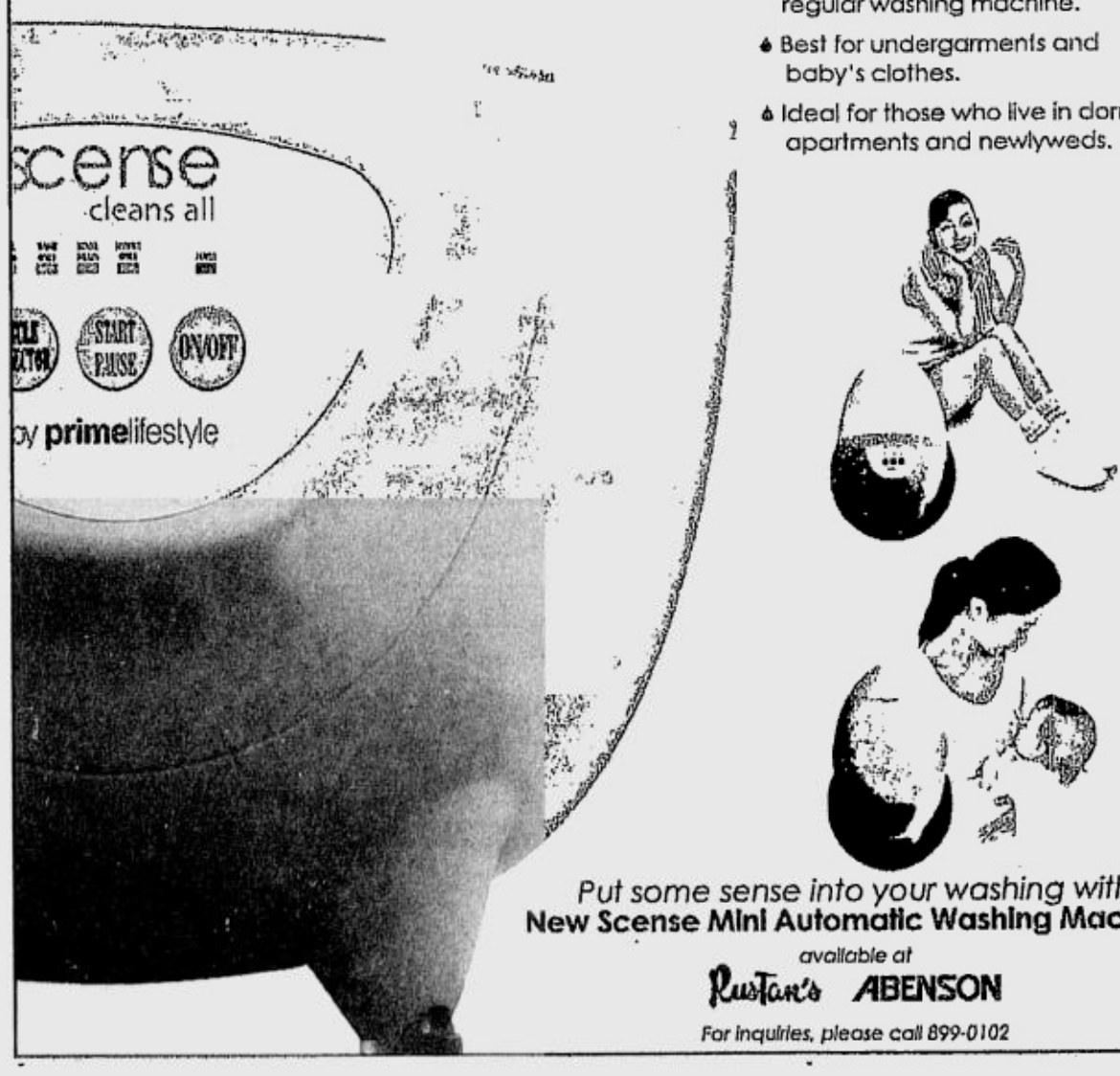

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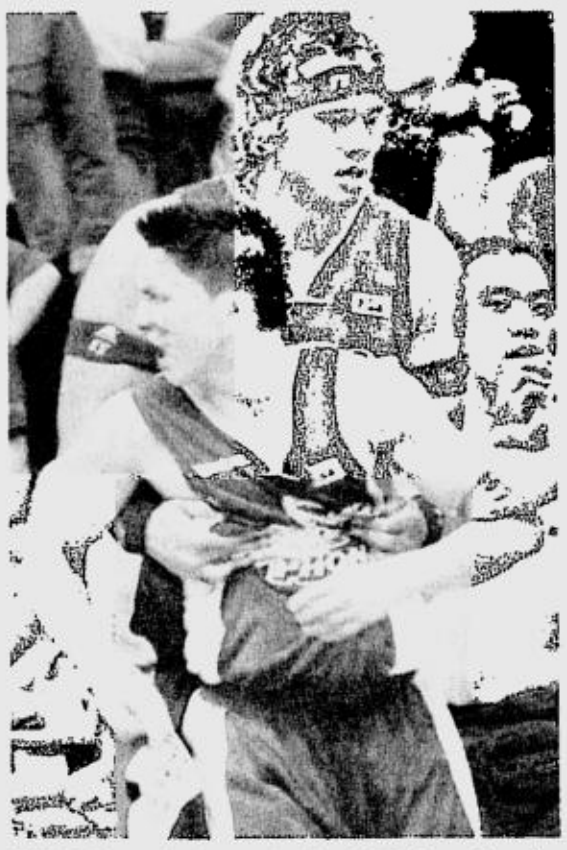

JIMMY Alapag being pacified by Asi Taulava after the intentional foul by Jimwell Torion. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SUDDEN-DEATH GAME

Aces attempt escape act against Sta. Lucia today

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
6:30 p.m.—Willie Miller vs Joey Mente (one-on-one King of the Court below 6-4 Finals)
7 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska

By June Navarro

THE ALASKA Aces get another chance to prove their growing rep as do-or-die escape artists today.

This time, the Aces try to get past the Sta. Lucia Realtors tonight as they dispute the last semifinal berth in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I like my chances in Game 3. We're good at do-or-die games," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, whose Aces had won seven of their last eight knockout matches, including five straight this season.

The Aces forced a decider in their best-of-three quarterfinal series against the Realtors after posting a hard-earned 95-84 victory in Game 2 last Sunday.

The Aces are actually 16-4 in sudden-death games dating back to last year while the Realtors are 0-2 in rubber matches. Sta. Lucia had actually lost three straight dating back to the All-Filipino Cup last season.

With momentum now on their side, the Aces will be seeking a second straight Finals appearance after their title win in the Invitationals and a third in the last four conferences.

Cone, however, is quite apprehensive whether the Aces can pull this one off, knowing that his top local scorer Ali Peek is not yet in tip-top shape.

"I'm not sure if Ali can play. But I must say that we definitely need him because Sta. Lucia has a lot of size," said Cone.

Peek went under the knife almost a month ago to remove fluids and bone chips on his left knee.

His doctors said it would take three weeks for Peek to fully recover, giving Cone some hope that the leading local scorer for Alaska would be ready in the quarterfinals against the Realtors.

Without Peek, Isaac Fontaine will be forced to again play the power forward position while John Arigo, Brandon Cablay, Mike Cortez, Robert Duat and EJ Feihl will have to adjust to the situation.

The Realtors, seeking a second straight conference semifinal, are pinning their hopes on Ray Tutt, who will be supported by Marlou Aquino, Kenneth Duremdes and Dennis Espino.

Alapag goes under knife; Red Bull coaches quit

By June Navarro

RED Bull Barako playmaker Jimwell Torion faces a stiff penalty for a blatant foul on Jimmy Alapag of Talk 'N Text even as the coaching staff of the Barakos tendered their courtesy resignation after blowing their semifinal-bid against the Phone Pals in the Samsung PBA Reinforced Conference.

Alapag suffered a fractured nose that had to be re-

ALAPAG/ A26

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5	318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	8,000 kms	1,630,000
6	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	11,000 kms	1,650,000
7	318i Limousine	2003	Orient Blue	4,000 kms	1,675,000
8	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	1,675,000
9	318i Sport	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	2,100,000
10	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	12,000 kms	2,300,000
11	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	3,000 kms	2,375,000
12	325i Sport	2003	Imola Red	3,000 kms	2,475,000
13	525i	2001	Orient Blue	7,000 kms	2,500,000
14	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	18,000 kms	2,550,000
15	525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13,000 kms	2,600,000
16	520i	2003	Titanium Silver	2,000 kms	2,650,000
17	Z4	2003	Black Sapphire	5,000 kms	2,950,000
18	525i	2003	Toledo Blue	8,000 kms	3,100,000
19	745Li	2002	Black Sapphire	14,000 kms	6,500,000

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3	525i	1995	Alpine White	54,000 kms	850,000
4	318ids	1996	Arktis Silver	52,000 kms	875,000
5	320i	1998	Arktis Silver	68,000 kms	880,000
6	X53.0i	2001	Black Sapphire	34,000 kms	3,100,000

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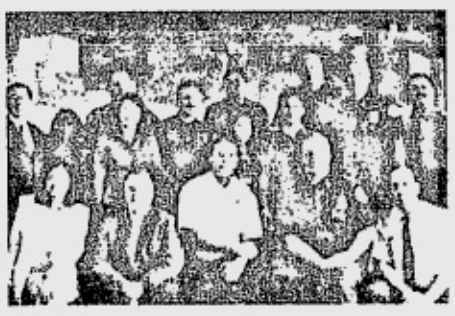

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■ **Montaña rips Sunkist; ICTSI nips Viva** /A27

■ **Keon not giving up on the Filipino athlete** /A28

■ **Miñozas catch Cantada-Tanpinco** /A29

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PSC seeks Boncodin's help

SEAG-bound tracksters beef about missing gear

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has sought the help of the Department of Budget and Management in expediting the release of the P111-million budget needed by the country's contingent for its participation in the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

PSC chair Eric Buhain met with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin Wednesday night to apprise her of the budget requirements of the contingent and expressed hopes Boncodin's meeting with President Arroyo this week would "bring good news to the athletes."

"We're keeping our fingers crossed but we are confident the President is totally aware of the athletes' needs, especially at this time when they are already at their peak for competition," Buhain said.

Barely three weeks before the SEAG, the athletics association yesterday sounded a distress call to the PSC with the delay in the arrival of their equipment used in the Mindanao Friendship Games and Palarong Pambansa.

Among the training gear is the one and only pole vault equipment which the athletes needs in training several events like decathlon, high jump and pole vault.

The athletes' training, according to RP coach Dario de Rosas, has stopped because of the delay.

"That certainly affects us because it has been three weeks since the Mindanao events, and that means for those weeks we haven't been practicing," De Rosas told the Inquirer.

The back-to-back events were held Oct. 19 to 29, but the equipment, which were shipped by the PSC to Mindanao, have not been sent back.

The PSC refused to make any statement regarding the issue, although sources said the agency has not paid the shipment fee and could not recover the equipment.

De Rosas also complained of the delay of the issuance of spike shoes of the 35-member athletics team, which has won the most number of gold medals two years ago in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

BUHAIN: The President knows.

The coach said the athletes are making with the old spikes given them two years ago during the KL meet, where they won nine golds.

Buhain also thanked Boncodin for assuring the PSC of a "favorable recommendation" to the President.

"We are hopeful of a positive response because we are confident the athletes remain close to the President's heart. Despite her busy schedule and numerous concerns, the President still takes time to check on our athletes and their preparations for the SEA Games," Buhain said.

"Secretary Boncodin was already very receptive to our presentation," Buhain added. "She promised to recommend the sourcing of funds and we are very thankful to her."

The bulk of the budget would go to airfare, board and lodging and allowances of the 658-member delegation in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh.

Also to be taken care of are payments for equipment, luggage, uniforms and logistical and operational budget for one secretariat group each for Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Manila.

The PSC will also shoulder expenses for in-land transportation and communication, as well as medical supplies aside from funding athletes joining the Southeast Asian Para-Games set after the regular SEAG.

With a report from Marc Anthony Reyes

Alapag goes under knife; Red Bull coaches quit

From page A25

paired by surgery yesterday after Torion threw a vicious arm at the rookie's face in the final 48 seconds of their game won by the Phone Pals Friday night, 95-81.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has summoned Torion to his office today to explain his side. An INQUIRER source said Torion would be slapped with a hefty fine on top of at least a five-game suspension based on the league's rules for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Meanwhile, Red Bull Barako team manager Tony Chua and head coach Yeng Guiao told team owner George Chua that they are stepping down in a letter expressing the coaching staff's disappointment over Red Bull's subpar performance this season.

"We feel that we have to give our boss, Mr. (George) Chua, the freedom to reevaluate the team and if a revamp should be done based on our performance," Guiao told the INQUIRER.

Guiao and Chua quit along with consultants Andy Jao, Rudy Hines, Mon Amador and assistant coaches Jojo Villapando, Kirk Collier, Roehl Nadurata and Yaki Enmas.

Guiao said the courtesy resignation was necessary to give Chua a free hand in deciding the future of the team and at the same time allow the owner to call off their contracts if possible.

Guiao, who still has two years on his contract, steered the Barakos to back-to-back Commissioner's Cup titles in the 2001 and 2002 seasons, making the Photokina Marketing franchise as the fastest team in the league to nail two PBA crowns in just three years.

But after their Commissioner's Cup exploits, the Barakos failed to survive the playoffs for three straight conferences despite playing strongly in the eliminations.

"We can actually point to a lot of things that led to those unsatisfactory finishes but we did not. We claim responsibility for what happened and we are willing to accept the consequences," said Guiao.

The Barakos dominated the Reinforced eliminations, posting a franchise-best 10 straight wins, only to be eliminated in the quarterfinals by a TNT squad they had dominated twice earlier.

"The expectations were too high because of our previous performances," Guiao stressed.

Alapag will be a doubtful starter in Game 1 of the Phone Pals' best-of-five semifinal series against the Coca-Cola Tigers on Sunday.

Talk 'N Text assistant coach Ariel Vanguardia said Alapag, who is still confined at the Medical City, would wear a mask if ever he plays in Game 2.

Ring hero Pacquiao arrives tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay

WORLD boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, who thrilled the nation with his explosive conquest of Mexican featherweight great Marco Antonio Barrera Sunday, arrives at 9:50 tonight on board a Northwest Airlines jet from Los Angeles via Narita, Japan.

Coming home with Pacquiao are business manager Rod Nazario, wife Jinkee, personal trainer Buboy Fernandez, Moi Lainez, Lito Mondejar, and Gerry Garcia. The group will proceed to the Manila Hotel, where Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has organized a welcome party for the triumphant group.

Pacquiao, the reigning IBF superbantam champion, will make a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Monday after a ticker-tape parade organized by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay that will start in Makati.

MEMBERS of the Glendale, California firefighting unit gatecrash a luncheon in honor of Filipino world boxing champ Manny Pacquiao (eighth from left, standing) in Glendale to have a group picture with their idol. NIMFA RUEDA

Then on Tuesday, at 4 p.m., Pacquiao will be conferred a special "Congressional Medal of Honor Award" by House Speaker Jose de Venecia in behalf of Congress.

Bukidnon solon Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, who co-sponsored with De Venecia House Resolution 1385 congratulating and honoring Pacquiao, said the former bakery worker from General Santos City is the first sportman to receive such an honor from Congress.

Pacquiao's achiement "has united our people under one flag, inspiring hope and national reconciliation and pride in being a Filipino amid the uncertainties, challenges and hardships we are currently facing," Zubiri added.

"The award is the highest given to an athlete," confirmed Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva, who has coordinated Pacquiao's visit to Congress and Malacañang.

Villanueva led a small group of Filipinos who cheered Pacquiao at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, where he disposed of Barrera by technical knockout in the 11th round of their non-title featherweight bout.

Pacquiao will take a much-deserved rest with his family this Christmas then start his conditioning for a possible March super-bout against any of the big names in the superbantam, featherweight, or junior lightweight divisions.

Miller-Mente 1-on-1 duel

RED Bull's season is over but not Willie Miller's.

The reigning league Most Valuable Player gets a chance to salvage a title-less campaign when he takes on San Miguel Beer sparkplug Joey Mente in the 6-4 and below finals of the Purefoods-Ginebra PBA King of the Court one-on-one tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Miller holds the advantage in size and has a lot more weapons in his arsenal, but he can't take anything for granted against Mente in a keenly awaited game pitting two of the league's most flamboyant and most popular small men.

The game will be played at halftime of the sudden-death match between Alaska Milk and Sta. Lucia Realty.

At stake is a 150,000 top prize and the honor of joining Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo as champions of the revived event.

Raymundo upset Asi Taulava in the finals of the 6-4 and above category.

Presidents Cup leaves mark in South Africa

GEORGE, South Africa—The only black man in the bleachers behind the 15th green scampered down the steps when Vijay Singh passed below. He leaned over the railing and clapped furiously to cheer the Fijian on.

A few days earlier, a 21-year-old caddie from the Xhosa tribe talked excitedly about the Presidents Cup, the biggest golf event ever to come to South Africa.

"I hear Tiger Woods is already in Cape Town," said the caddie, Leonard, his smile growing. "He's the man. I'm telling you, he's the man!"

The face of golf, long considered a white, elitist sport, is slowly changing in a country that is only a dozen years removed from apartheid. And having Singh and Woods here for the Presidents Cup could be the catalyst to speed things along.

"Young kids sitting in Soweto and villages in South Africa, most of them have got a TV set somehow or another," said Gary Player, the International team captain and South Africa's greatest player. "When they can see the No. 1 and No. 2 players in the world are both black, it's an awful big dream. It's a dream that can be fulfilled."

Player believes the Presidents Cup will deliver a powerful message, regardless of the outcome.

There are already junior programs in place, and more black men who have advanced into the corporate ranks are playing golf.

"History shows that people pick up the game because they follow professional players," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said Wednesday. "When Tiger came on the scene, the percentage of African-American kids' interest in the game went up dramatically. With the amount of focus on this event, to some degree it will have the same impact."

The matches begin Thursday on the Links Course at Fancourt Hotel and Country Club Estate, with Phil Mickelson and David Toms playing the first of six alternate-shot matches against Nick Price and Mike Weir.

Singh is paired with Retief Goosen in the second match. Woods and Charles Howell III are in the last match.

Ten team matches are scheduled Friday, six on Saturday and 12 singles matches Sunday will decide who wins the cup. *AP*

Ageless Angeles

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE HAPPIEST person on Wednesday was Rod V. Feliciano, the WWW Express owner and a great mate of DHL top honcho Charles Brewer (Charles is my fellow Beatlemaniac from England, remember?).

On Wednesday, Rod V. Feliciano and Dr. Manny Angeles signed the Memorandum of Agreement designating the Mimosa Golf & Country Club venue of the 88th DHL Philippine Open.

"Finally, it's on," said Rod, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP). "The next RP Open has found a home in Mimosa. My deepest gratitude to Dr.(Manny) Angeles. He is heaven-sent. Our country's golfers also ought to salute the guy."

Next year's DHL Philippine Open offering $250,000 in prizes will be held Feb. 12-15 at Mimosa, whose stature rose to unprecedented heights when former President Fidel V. Ramos played with Tiger Woods there in 1997 through the megabuck sponsorship of SMART.

Wednesday's signing at the Mimosa Golf Academy lifted Rod's spirits following months of anxiety and uncertainty.

Before he clinched Mimosa, Rod had been looking for a venue in the Big City after Manila Golf Club backed out from hosting the DHL Philippine Open this year.

But in fairness to Manila Golf Club, it had initially wanted to host the Open and, in fact, the course was ready for it this month. Subsequent changes though in the DHL Philippine Open dates coming from the Asian PGA, which handles scheduling of tournaments in Asia for 100 or so professionals from around the world listed in its roster, fouled up club schedules at Manila Golf Club. MGC had to drop the Open because several dates given by the Asian PGA conflicted with MGC's projects and tournaments that had been calendared in advance.

But, as the cliché goes, "All's well that ends well."

"On our part, we are honored to host the country's most prestigious golf tournament," said Dr. Angeles, president/CEO of Clark Development Corporation (CDC) that handles Mimosa, a sprawling 27-hole beauty. "It's always a pleasure for our people and our foreign visitors as well to discover the beauty of Clark, Mimosa and the many other beauties of Pampanga."

Looking very fit and trim despite his 67-year-old knees, the paunch-less Dr. Angeles is a sportsman by heart and a public servant by choice. He plays golf twice a week at Mimosa and walks regularly during the week.

"After President Macapagal-Arroyo had appointed me head of CDC, I have not stopped at efforts to make Clark the best resort to go to up North for relaxation, conventions/seminars and peace of mind," said Dr. Angeles, whose many past accomplishments include his being president of the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines from 1986 to 1990. "There was never any doubt in my mind that I could help restore the old grandeur of Clark."

Joining Dr. Angeles and Rod V. Feliciano in Wednesday's historic signing of the MOA were Mimosa's top gun Richard Atendido and CDC director Benny Ricafort, and NGAP's sec-gen Benny Gopez and vice president Admiral (ret) Louie Fernandez.

Dr. Angeles' pivotal entry into the DHL Philippine Open on February would mean that the pillar of the Angeles University Foundation will be spending more time to ensure that Mimosa scores a giant stride in the highly competitive aspect of global sports.

"I love challenges and I will always support a big league tournament such as the fabled Philippine Open," said Dr. Angeles, who is also chair of Prisaa.

Prisaa, the biggest association of private schools in the country, will soon stage its National Championship, possibly in Dagupan City. Dr. Angeles has been meeting with Ched head Bro. Orly Dizon to map out plans for the event. For his part, Gonz Duque, president of Dagupan's Lyceum Northwestern U, has told me he is willing to host the Prisaa "if given the chance."

Said the youthful Gonz Duque: "To work with Dr. Angeles will always be a pleasure. For sure, I will learn a lot from him should our university become host of the next Prisaa meet."

But Dr. Angeles has an immediate task at hand that he feels will whet his inherent appetite for action.

"May our modest means at Mimosa create an indelible impact long after the DHL Philippine Open is held at our home grounds," said Dr. Angeles, whose sprightly mien, he said, is the result of a diet consisting mainly of vegetables, fish and fruits. "This early, I extend the glad hand to everybody wishing to pitch in for the success of Mimosa's most prestigious event since the visit here of Tiger Woods."

They say action is contagious. Seemingly, the ageless Dr. Angeles has that affliction.

***

FASTBREAK. Ed Gaddi, a golf buddy of mine, will party with his fellow Ateneo members of Ll. B Class 60 at Greenhills Bangus Restaurant on Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m. As always, you got taste, Pareng Ed. If Sen. Jaworski, FVR and FPJ have one thing in common, it's bangus. And, yes, Pareng Ed, bangus is also the favorite fish of Rudy Salud, your esteemed batchmate.

Montaña rips Sunkist, gains share of lead

GAMES TOMORROW
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—ICTSI vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Fash vs Viva

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MONTAÑA Jewels leaned on the hot hands of national player Gary David to down Sunkist-UST, 85-73, and grab a share of the lead in the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

David scored 18 of his 26 points in the second half as he mocked all defenders thrown at him to lift the Jewels to their third win in four games and a tie with idle Welcoat for top spot.

Earlier, Joseph Yeo hit a jumper with 48 seconds left to lift ICTSI-La Salle to a 63-61 victory over Viva Mineral Water.

The basket ended the Archers' two-minute scoreless spell down the stretch and sealed their second win in four games.

"We didn't play smart in our first two games," said ICTSI coach Franz Pumaren, referring to their 0-2 start. "I think we are now beginning to really get into the game."

With ICTSI trailing, 59-58, Yeo flicked a shot from the three-point lane but missed. His teammates got the rebound and decided to give him another chance.

"When the ball came back to me, I was very sure I was in the best shooting position," said Yeo, whose jumper gave the lead back to ICTSI at 60-59.

Viva went to flashy rookie Arwin Santos, but the Far Eastern standout couldn't deliver.

ICTSI padded the lead to 63-59 with three freethrows with 8.4 seconds left, but Viva just won't roll over and die. Dennis Miranda fished a foul off Dominic Uy with 4.1 ticks left from beyond the triple arc. But after making the first two, he missed the third one, with the rebound going to the Archers.

The Tigers, who took their third loss in four games, trailed by as many as 14 in the third and could only come within seven at 70-77 despite a rally triggered by Jemal Vizcarra, Alex Compton and Bernzon Franco.

SUNNY Margate of Viva Mineral Water dribbles around Joaquim Thoss of ICTSI. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Scores:

First Game

ICTSI 63—Yeo 14, Cardona 12, Thoss 10, Jose 8, Aldeguer 6, Villanueva 4, Uy 3, Tang 2, Cabatu 2, Magsumbol 2, Gavino 0, Ramos 0.

VIVA 61—Misolas 14, Miranda 12, Co 9, Santos 9, Isip 7, Ybanez 4, Sinco 2, Razon 2, Garcia 2, Margate 0, Rizada 0, Napa 0.

Quarters: 14-11, 28-25, 45-47, 63-61.

Second Game

MONTAÑA 85—David 26, Salvador 14, Manigo 13, Magsumbol 9, Guerrero 8, Coronel 7, Allad 6, Basco 2, Sayon 0, Baluyot 0, Enrile 0, Saniel 0, Mendoza 0.

SUNKIST-UST 73—Vizcarra 20, Compton 14, Franco 10, Villamin 7, De Guzman 6, Hubalde 5, Oreta 5, Mendoza 4, Espiritu 2, Santos 0, Manansala 0.

Quarters: 18-21, 37-42, 64-52, 85-73

Pioneer b'minton qualifying Sunday

TOP and up-and-coming shuttlecock fanatics are expected to show their wares in the qualifying matches this Sunday for the Pioneer Badminton Christmas tournament at the Pioneer courts in Mandaluyong.

Pioneer Badminton top honcho Edmin Tarriela said the leveling-qualifying is set at 1 to 5 p.m. to be conducted by tournament director and former national athlete Eg Lim.

Lim, brother of former Olympian and Philippine Sports Commission commissioner Weena Lim, will have his hands full after hundreds indicated their interest to join the event, sponsored by Pacific Internet, Magic 89.9 and Yehey.com.

"We expect a similar response as far as the number of participants is concerned. Our target, however, is to encourage a total of only 150 to 200 competitors, including non-members," said Tarriela.

Organizing committee head Dea Alonzo said that aside from the 150 spots for regular Pioneer Badminton members, 50 slots would be set aside for non-Pioneer Badminton habitués. Interested parties may call Pioneer Badminton at 746-0828 or 638-5343.

"The event was initially for Pioneer Badminton members only but the response during the just-concluded Epson Cup encouraged us to open slots to non-members as well," said Alonzo.

The two-day tournament will blast off on Dec. 13. The awarding ceremony on the final playdate will be followed by a Christmas party.

The tournament hopes to give Pioneer Badminton members an opportunity to hone their skills for bigger tournaments next year.

Another leveling-qualifying will be scheduled next weekend before the participants are grouped into different teams.

The tournament comes on the heels of the Epson Cup badminton tourney where at least 400 participants joined the qualifying. Only 300 competitors, however, passed the grade and made it to the tournament proper.

Santos forges semifinal showdown with Arevalo

TOP seed Anna Patricia Santos rallied past seventh seed Ivy de Castro, 6-1, 2-6, 6-0, yesterday to reach the women's singles semifinals in the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao.

"I cannot find my rhythm in the second set and Ivy took advantage of that," said Santos, who reached the fourth round of the Asian Championships in Uzbekistan early this year.

Santos, who will banner the ladies team in the Vietnam SEA Games next month, will next play defending champion Czarina Mae Arevalo, who demolished fifth seed Michelle Panis, 6-1, 6-3.

Santos, who became the country's No. 1 player after winning the Olivarez Cup, Coca-Cola Open and Hilado Cup, lost to Arevalo in the second round last year.

Santos sees a tough match against Arevalo, who slid to No. 4 in the national rankings after taking a three-month break from competition.

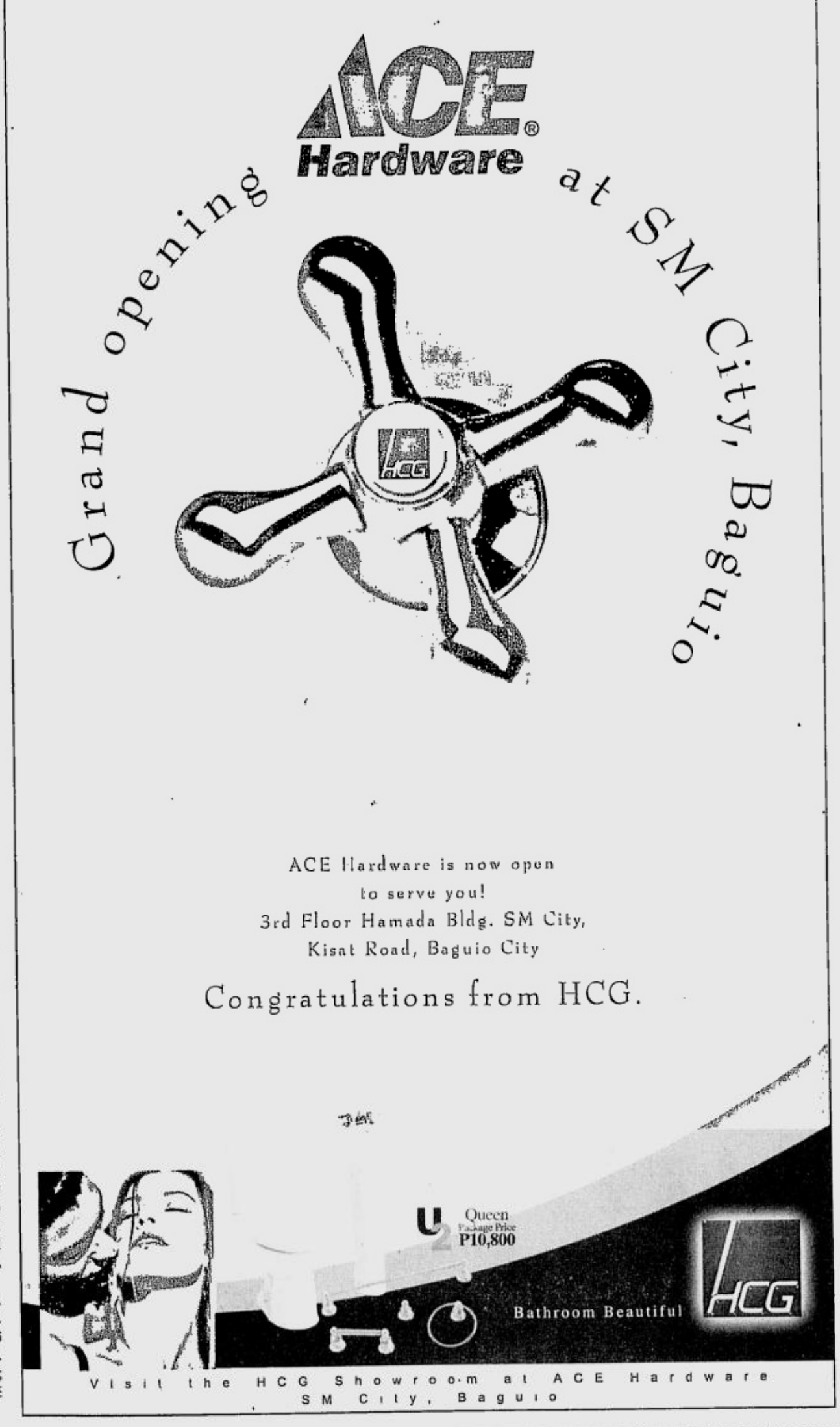
"It's going to be a close match," declared Arevalo, who teamed up with Santos to win the doubles bronze in the first Afro-Asian Games in India a few weeks back.

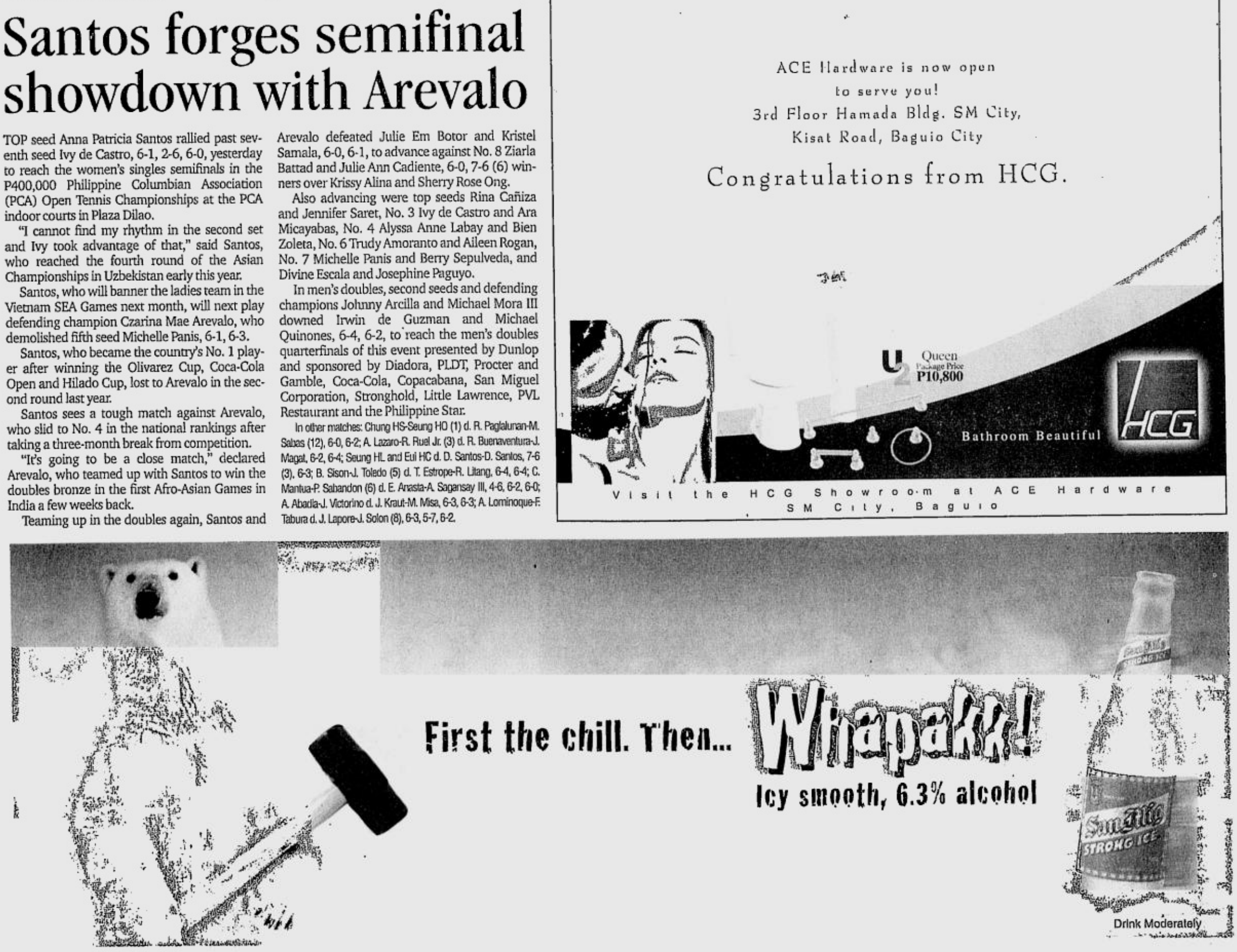
Teaming up in the doubles again, Santos and Arevalo defeated Julie Em Botor and Kristel Samala, 6-0, 6-1, to advance against No. 8 Ziarla Battad and Julie Ann Cadiente, 6-0, 7-6 (6) winners over Krissy Alina and Sherry Rose Ong.

Also advancing were top seeds Rina Cañiza and Jennifer Saret, No. 3 Ivy de Castro and Ara Micayabas, No. 4 Alyssa Anne Labay and Bien Zoleta, No. 6 Trudy Amoranto and Aileen Rogan, No. 7 Michelle Panis and Berry Sepulveda, and Divine Escala and Josephine Paguyo.

In men's doubles, second seeds and defending champions Johnny Arcilla and Michael Mora III downed Irwin de Guzman and Michael Quinones, 6-4, 6-2, to reach the men's doubles quarterfinals of this event presented by Dunlop and sponsored by Diadora, PLDT, Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola, Copacabana, San Miguel Corporation, Stronghold, Little Lawrence, PVL Restaurant and the Philippine Star.

In other matches: Chung HS-Seung HO (1) d. R. Paglalunan-M. Sabas (12), 6-0, 6-2; A. Lazaro-R. Ruel Jr. (3) d. R. Buenaventura-J. Magat, 6-2, 6-4; Seung HL and Eui HC d. D. Santos-D. Santos, 7-6 (3), 6-3; B. Sison-J. Toledo (5) d. T. Estrope-R. Lilang, 6-4, 6-4; C. Mantua-P. Sabandon (6) d. E. Anasta-A. Sagansay III, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0; A. Abadia-J. Victorino d. J. Kraut-M. Misa, 6-3, 6-3; A. Lominoque-F. Tabura d. J. Lapore-J. Solon (8), 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.





SPORTSWATCH

Union Cement tows badminton winners

UNION Cement towed the two-round elimination winners among 32 teams in the first Nesvita badminton Executive Cup which opened Nov. 15 at the Power Smash Badminton Center in Pasong Tamo. Councilor Junjun Binay and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain were special guests. The other winners were Asia Trust, China Bank-B, Shell A and B, RCBC A and B, BPI A and B, Banco de Oro, PNB, Meralco B, Philippine Star, Ericsson Telecom, PLDT and ABS-CBN.

8 teams compete in Surigao Go-for-Goal

SURIGAO CITY—Eight teams will see action in the Surigao City Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations starting today at the sports complex here. These are Surigao Norte National High, Surigao City High, Anomar High, Mat-I National High, Surigao Norte Technology High, San Juan High and Talisay High. Mayor Alfonso Casura, city administrator Raymond Tikinhoy and Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad have been invited by local football head Enrique Nomida to grace the opening ceremony.

Architects troop to Eagle Ridge

ARCHITECTS have a sole destination on Monday—the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Cavite for the 12th Annual Architects Golf Classic. Three hundred players are participating in the event set at the Faldo and Norman courses. The perpetual glass trophy was designed by famous sculptor, architect Ramon Orlina. Strong contenders include defending champion Joey Punsalan, past champions Sonny Esguerra, Jimmy Aizon, Nepthy Del Rosario, Ricky Solatorio, Ed Romualdez, Elmer Santos, Joey Punsalan, Ruzy Zapanta, Cord Guanzo, Gene Go and Andy Vasquez.

Senior executive tennis tourney

THE NEWLY formed Philippine Tennis Management Inc. launches its first tennis season with the staging of the PTMI Senior Executive Tennis Championships Dec. 7-14 at the QCSC Indoor Shell Courts on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. On tap are men's competitions in the 35, 40, 50 and 55 years-and-above categories and doubles in the 35, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years-above classes. Lined up in the ladies side are the 30 and 35 years-and-above categories. The tournament, organized by the PTMI in cooperation with the QCSC, is sponsored by adidas, Forten Tennis Accessories, Dunlop, RFM, San Miguel Corp., Sulo Hotel and Racks. Registration is ongoing at the Philippine Columbian Association, QCSC, Valle Verde Country Club and Rizal Sports Club-Pasig. Deadline for submission of entries is Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. For details, call 911-4905 or 422-7249 (ask for Dorothy).

Motorsports Festival this weekend

ALL ROADS lead to Subic for the 2003 Philippine Motorsports Festival tomorrow and Sunday. Now on its fourth year, the PMF will feature circuit racing, car rally, big bike racing, motocross, scooter, karting, jetski, hillclimbing, and windsurfing. The event will be held simultaneously with the first Subic Karakoa Festival being organized by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority under chair Felicito Payumo. Two-time circuit champion George Ramirez is the PMF organizing committee head. For inquiries, call the PMF secretariat at 671-6926 or Subic BBMA Promotions and Marketing Department at (6347) 252-4626 and 252-4627 or e-mail promo"sbma.com.

Bumgarner leads Tuason Cup winners

MARK Bumgarner, Matthew Edmunds and Donovan Yu topped their respective categories during the 4th Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup held at the Carmona Circuit Philippine in Carmona, Cavite, last Sunday. Bumgarner, brother of multititled lady karter Michelle Bumgarner, ruled the Expert F125 class. Bumgarner completed 25 laps in 21 minutes and 28.648 seconds, beating Marcel Thenu, who clocked 21 minutes and 28.742 seconds. In the Novice F125 class, Edmunds crossed the finish line in 21 minutes and 32 seconds. Former race official turned competitor Donovan Yu emerged as top rookie.

PCC hosts special 3-cocker today

A SPECIAL 3-cock deby will be held at the Pasay City Cockpit at 7 p.m. today. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano said the guaranteed prize is P150,000 for an fee of P3,300. Submission of weights is until 2 p.m. and interested parties may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

First Anniversary derby in Bacolor

MORE than 80 fights are scheduled in the "First Anniversary 4-Cock Derby" of Bacolor Cockpit Arena in Pampanga today. Action starts at 5 p.m. For an entry fee of P22,000, the prize at stake is P1 million. Bacolor Cockpit Arena is under the management of Jingco Brothers (Jun and Rudy), Ramon Ricafort and engineers Damian Ramos and Efren Canlas. The Jingco Brothers have invited their fellow members in the National Cockers Association and Ucap to make the event a special occasion.

Bakbakan 8-stag finals tomorrow

THE FINALS of the Bakbakan 2003 National 8-Stag Derby blast off at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow. After the eight-stage elimination, 342 entries featuring 1,026 young roosters have seen action. Out of these, 156 entries have earned enough points to continue in the Nov. 22 & 24 semis and the much-awaited championship on the 26th. The qualifiers include 43 three-pointers, 13 with 2.5 points each and 100 with 2 points each. In addition to the qualifiers, 20 new entries that were not accommodated last Wednesday are expected to join the fray fielding five stags each.

YOUNG JIN
Allen Christopher Lim, the youngest and smallest taekwondo bet in the recent Palarong Maynila at the San Andres Sports complex, won a silver medal. Lim, who'll turn 6 on Dec. 1, is a kinder pupil of Beata Elem School.

PUTT CHALLENGE
Actor Greg Turvey (right) leads the tee-off at the "WOW Putt Challenge" of the 1st Sports Tourism and Adventure Travel Show as Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation (PCVC) deputy director and sports tourism director Cynthia Carrion looks on. The event, held recently held inside the Clamshell 2 in Intramuros, featured Nuts Entertainment mainstays versus RP National Athletes. The show is organized by the Department of Tourism through the PCVC in cooperation with Visa and will run until Nov. 30.

Lakers down Knicks

NEW YORK—Karl Malone was one of three Lakers to make more freethrows than the Knicks attempted, helping Los Angeles end its three-game road losing streak with a 104-83 victory over New York on Wednesday night.

The Lakers had a whopping 47-6 edge in freethrow attempts in a game that featured 53 fouls —34 on the Knicks.

Malone had 17 points and 14 rebounds, Shaquille O'Neal had 23 points and Kobe Bryant added 21 as the Lakers won with ease against a Knicks team that was short-handed to begin with—Keith Van Horn sat out with a sprained ankle—and was further depleted by the referees' frequent whistles.

The Lakers were 37-for-47 from the line, while New York was 6-for-6.

Hornets 81, Celtics 73

In Boston, Baron Davis scored 17 points, and P.J. Brown added 12 points and 16 rebounds as New Orleans beat Boston for its fourth straight victory.

Walter McCarty's layup drew the Celtics to 74-71 with 1:14 remaining, but George Lynch sealed the game with a three-point play when David Wesley passed through three defenders and hit a cutting Lynch under the basket.

Jamaal Magloire had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who outrebounded the Celtics 50-31.

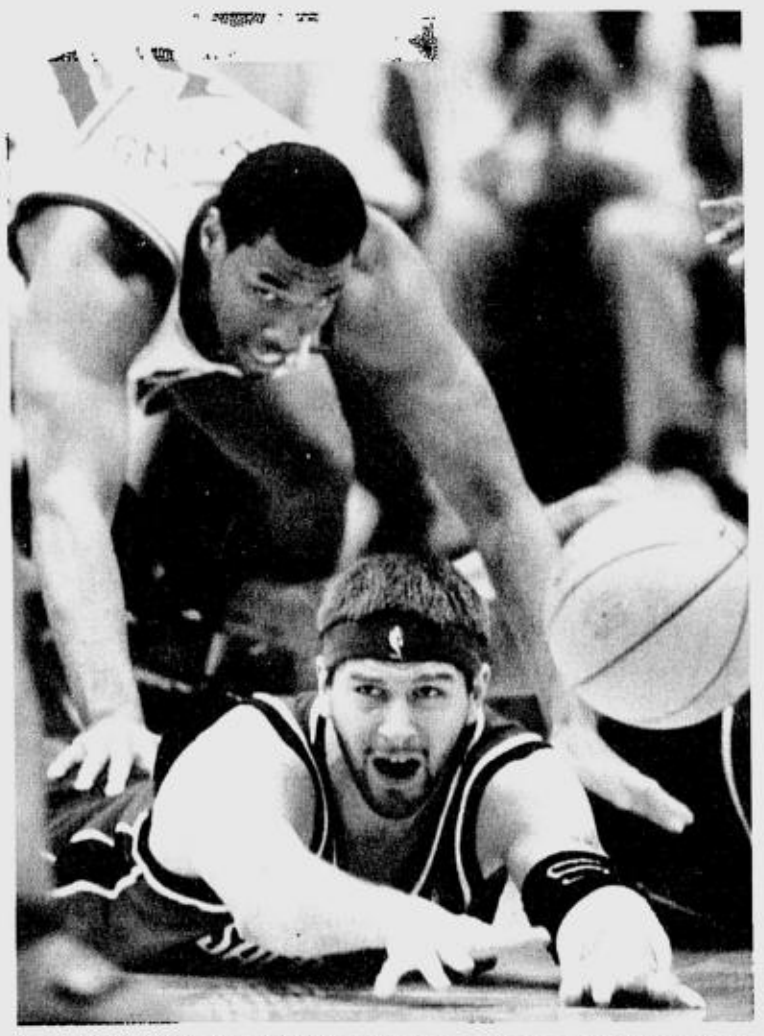
Paul Pierce scored 23 points for the Celtics. Boston was held to a season-low 73 points and has dropped six of nine.

Wizards 106, Cavaliers 95

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 25 points, Etan Thomas worked hard for a career-high 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Washington kept LeBron James and Cleveland winless on the road.

James scored a career-high 28 points on 10-for-18 shooting with eight assists and seven rebounds, but Thomas was the biggest force in the game. He came off the bench to cap an eventful evening that started when he got rear-ended in a car accident on the way to the arena.

Complete results: Philadelphia 81, Toronto 75; Washington 106, Cleveland 95; New Orleans 81, Boston 73; LA Lakers 104, New York 83; Indiana 91, LA Clippers 78; Detroit 99, Memphis 92; Denver 94, Milwaukee 86; Sacramento 118, Utah 110; Houston 85, Golden State 83; Portland 94, Miami 93. *AFP*



SACRAMENTO's Brad Miller, on floor, passes the ball to a teammate as Utah's Jarron Collins watches. AP

Michael Keon not giving up on the Filipino athlete

By Anthony Suntay

KEON: System is flawed.

REMEMBER Michael Keon? The controversial former executive director of the highly successful Project: Gintong Alay (from Oct. 21, 1979 until the elite sports program was overtaken by the events of February 1986) is indeed a man of many words. Sports is his life, it's his passion. Keon is now the director of the Ilocos Norte Sports Development Council, a low-profile post for a man who almost singlehandedly tried to bring the Philippines back to its glory years in sports. He doesn't mince words when talking about his love.

INQUIRER: Your athletes in Ilocos Norte are doing very well under your leadership. What's the secret of your success?

KEON: There is actually no big secret of success, the most important ingredient of success are the following: First, you must have sufficient money. No one ever has enough money so you must always prioritize what you have. Furthermore, you must use your money judiciously and with care, knowing when to spend and not to spend; Second, you must get the best possible coaches. Without proper coaching you will ultimately fail. The coaches ensure that you have a real viable scientific training program that is ongoing, cumulative in its effect with specific points for peaking and resting. Furthermore, the program should ensure the athletes have the best training aids i.e. ideally the best training facilities, the best equipment for each respective sport, of course the proper diet as food is fuel and other training aids such as vitamins, energy drink and in my opinion, something which is underrated but I believe is very important (especially for runners), massage. Bringing all these factors together, you must have a leader who understands sport and understands the psychology of athletes. The sports leader is like a conductor who conducts the various parts of a symphony, making sure that everyone works together in order to produce the best possible music.

INQUIRER: In your opinion, what is wrong with Philippine sports?

KEON: Let me explain it this way, after I left the scene in 1986, Philippine sports had a relatively strong foundation. My predecessors were able to continue the momentum that we had built up. This was evidenced by the fact that by the time the Philippines hosted the Southeast Asian Games in 1991, we were able to win a total of 91 gold medals falling 1 gold medal short of winning the overall championship. Since then, Philippine sports has gone into a tail dive, slowly but inexorably deteriorating in fits and starts. At times, this must be deceptive to the onlooker because our athletes especially in measurable sports like track and field, swimming, weightlifting, archery, etc. continue to improve their national records. A perfect example of this is the run of Eduardo Buenavista in the 10,000 meters during the last Asian Games in Busan, South Korea where he smashed the Philippine record which was set way back in 1985 by Mario Castro. The previous record was 30 minutes 32 seconds. Buenavista smashed it by 1 and a half minutes, not only breaking the 30- minute barrier but nearly breaking the 29- minute barrier with his time of 29:02. Despite this vast improvement in the Philippine standard, where did Buenavista end up in the 10,000m final? He was only 8th. So despite the fact that we are improving, the rest of Southeast Asia and Asia are improving far more rapidly. Despite our world-class victories in billiards and bowling (which prove our world-class capabilities), my overall assessment of Philippine sports as a whole is that the system is breaking down because of excessive politics and the usual ailments such as *palakasan* (boot-licking) and bata-bata (favoritism). What people fail to realize is that the Southeast Asian Games standard is literally the lowest standard in the world. The times, the standard, the measurements of the Southeast Asian Games are the lowest in the world. If we slide down the ladder of the Southeast Asian Games we literally end up at the bottom of the world.

INQUIRER: What would you say is the main difference with Philippine sports today as compared with "your time"?

KEON: The obvious difference between my time and the present, is that, during my time, I was both the head of Gintong Alay (which is now the Philippine Sports Commission) and the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, meaning, I ran both the government sports institution and the ultimate NGO for sport, the Olympic Committee. Thus, there was harmony between the government and the private sector and this was all done against the backdrop of an authoritarian government. This is not to say that I did not suffer from the usual political infighting so prevalent in this country, but the climate at that time ensured greater control and discipline within the sports environment. Nowadays there is simply too much politics. Politics is a factor of life but when it becomes excessive and the protagonists and the environment are so full of malice, vindictiveness and ill-will, then you really have a problem!

INQUIRER: What would you do if given the opportunity to head Philippine sports again?

KEON: This is what I would do, within the context of the PSC, I would create two task forces. Ideally, I would assign one Commissioner to each project. One project would be ala-Gintong Alay, its sole purpose being the identification, recruitment and training of athletes for international competitions. In other words, a purely elite program geared solely toward winning medals at the international level. The second program would be a grassroots program whose purpose is to send out talent scouts to provincial and regional meets, to seek out and discover new talents. In my experience here in the province of Ilocos Norte, having attended numerous competitions at the district, unit, provincial, regional and national levels, I am consistently witness to the abundance of talent this nation possesses. I know for a fact that there is so much talent which is not being utilized, not being tapped and this athletic talent simply falls through the cracks of the system and disappears forever. Each year, as I make the rounds of regional and national competitions, I see athletes come and go, one year they're there and the next year they're gone. Another problem that I've experienced personally here in my role as provincial director is the lack of proper scheduling of events. Every year, Dep. Ed. Region I has a problem scheduling the regional meet, always postponing and delaying the date which needless to say AFFECTS THE TRAINING OF ATHLETES. The same thing happened with the Palarong Pambansa. Look how many times it was postponed this year, only to end up being held in November. Look at the Luzon, Visayas Games that were meant to be held to complement the Mindanao Games, with all three games culminating in the Philippine National Championships. What happened? NOTHING. The Palaro wasn't held on time, the Luzon Games was not held, the Visayas Games was not held, thus the Philippine National Games was not held. Despite the fact that there were familiarization seminars, manuals and rules and regulations were printed, a secretariat was created etc., but in the end, all was a waste of money. It was good that the Palaro was held but it was held at the wrong time and for the wrong reasons. No one was prepared, many regions did not attend, the event ended up like an afterthought. The lack of consistency in setting dates, the inability to schedule a specific competition on a specific date affects the training, the preparation and the peaking of athletes. If you just do things in a haphazard chaotic manner, you will get poor results. I go crazy trying to cope with the change in scheduling. To properly train athletes, you must have a time frame with specific dates. It is so elementary and yet it is so hard for the authorities to implement. This is one fundamental problem that I would tackle.

INQUIRER: What are your plans? Will you stay in Ilocos Norte or would you relish the chance to once again serve the country as our sports czar?

KEON: Working here in the province and going down to the grassroots level has been a great learning experience for me. If we take Ilocos Norte to be a microcosm of the rest of the Philippines, it becomes obvious that this country is literally oozing with talent. I have discovered a number of athletes of national caliber and my sphere of control is a small province tucked away in the northern tip of Luzon. What more with the rest of the country? I've learned so much about the basic necessities of Philippine sports, in a sense, serving here in Ilocos has rounded out my knowledge in sports administration. I've gone from the highest pinnacle of sport administration all the way down to an LGU Sports Director. I am now more aware of the mechanics involved in running a sports program from the very bottom going all the way up and vice versa. In that sense, I would relish the opportunity to return and serve my country once again, knowing that my knowledge and experience as a sports administrator has grown tremendously these past five years. So my answer to you is an unequivocal yes. My name has been floated for the PSC chairmanship so many times over the years that I have given up all expectations. Maybe my middle name is a hindrance. Be that as it may, if it happens, it happens, and if it doesn't, obviously life goes on. My greatest regret is knowing that the Filipino, as a human being, is just as genetically competent in sport as any other race on this planet. Regardless of the height factor, Filipinos can excel in so many sports and fail to do so, not because of some genetic or biological deficiency, but because the *sistema* (system) is *palpak* (flawed).

Asian aquathlon goes to Boracay

THE STAGE is set for the Speedo Asian Aquathlon Championship and the 3rd Boracay Multi-Sport Festival on Dec. 12 and 13.

Aside from the centerpiece event, the 7K trail run-1.5K open water swim-3K beach run Asia and national aquathlon championship, organizers have lined up other adventure events, according to Nino Sinco of the Alternative Events Group, which has joined hands with the Cyclone Mountain Bike club of Boracay.

The event, presented by Speedo and the Pearl of the Pacific, together with major sponsors PSC, Fuji Film, Nike, Gatorade, David's Day Spa/Salon, Corporate Air, Enervon and Power Bar, will start Friday, Dec. 12, with the Fuji Film 25K Mountain Bike Race at the Mt. Luho trail, followed by the Fuji-backed dragon boat racing demonstration, the Speedo 1.5 K open water swim, and in the afternoon, the Nike Mountain trail run.

The Speedo Asian Aquathlon and the Nike Ultimate Frisbee Challenge will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Registration for the event, also supported by Alaska, MobileMedia, Mirror magazine, the POC, and the local government of Malay, Aklan, is going on. List-up forms are available at Speedo shops in Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, Megamall, Robinsons Place-Ermita and at the Podium.

Miñozas combine for 72, catch Cantada-Tanpinco

By Jong Arcano

NOT without a fight.

After an inauspicious start, the defending champion tandem of Raul Miñoza and his brother Paul regained lost ground with the tournament's best score so far of one-over-par 72 yesterday and grabbed a share of the lead with the youthful team of Gerard Cantada-JR Tanpinco halfway through the U-Bix National Pro-Am golf championship.

As the difficult playing conditions at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite sent the top teams in the first round tumbling down, the brothers of the country's foremost pro, Frankie, regrouped to boost their title-retention bid in the P1.2 million tourney.

The Miñozas scored four birdies against five bogeys—a bold effort amid the swirling winds that made the hazard-laden layout twice tougher—and pulled abreast of Cantada and Tanpinco at 151.

Cantada-Tanpinco managed only a birdie-less round of 79. The longtime buddies could have been alone at the top if not for a wet double-bogey on the 14th—the toughest hole on the course—and a three-putt bogey on the par-3 17th.

As expected, the soaring scores turned the battle for the title wide open heading into today's third round where only the top 30 teams and ties in the standings will advance to the final round tomorrow.

Cookie LaO's partnership with the president of the host club, Commodore Danny Pizarro, was in a tie for second at 152 with recent Eastridge Invitational winner Benjie Magada and Dicky Dizon. They turned in similar scores of 75s for the second straight day.

Another stroke back at 153 were first round co-leaders Ruel Banares and Marvin Dumandan (79) and the duo of Rey Pagunsan and Rico Javier, who also made a big jump with their 74.

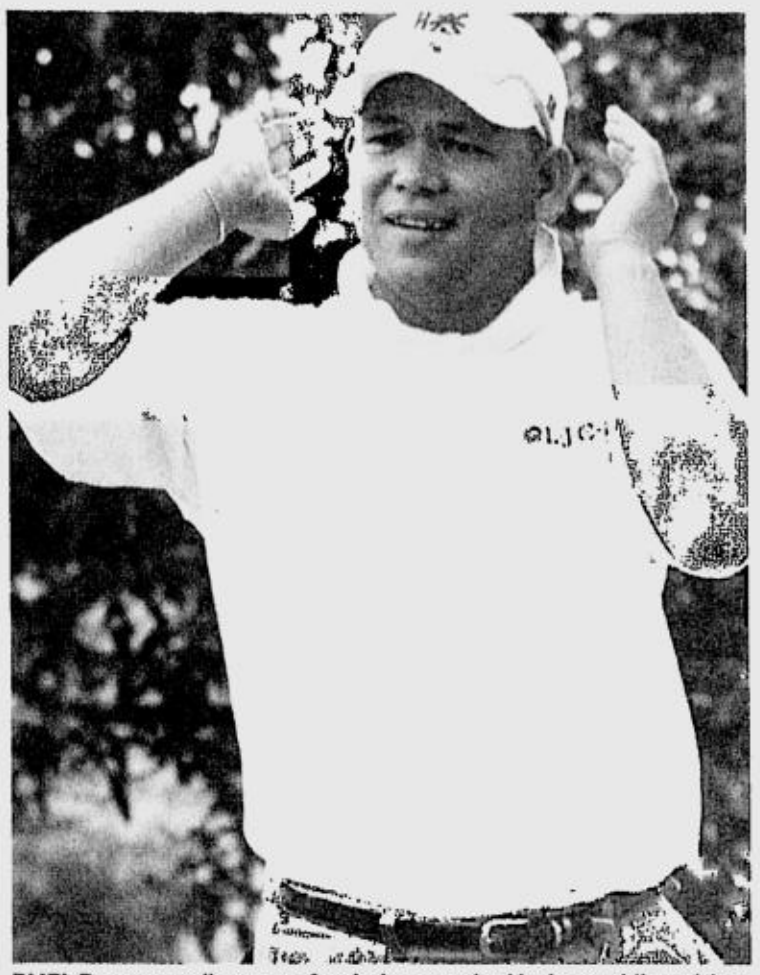
Jorge Abad and Mike Bibat were alone in seventh spot at 79-154.

"The conditions are getting tougher each day and it's really getting to be a test of patience for everybody," said the burly Cantada, now a full-time teaching pro who is making a return to competitive play after a two-year hiatus.

The closest Cantada's team came to a birdie was on the fourth, but JR flubbed a four-footer.

Sponsoring the event are U-Bix Konica Digital Copiers, Epson Printers, U-Bix Riso Digital Duplicators, S-Yard, Bravo Golf, Pivo Praha, Grappa's, Cafe Appassionato, Nike Golf (Pacsports), DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Airlift Asia, ESAPSA, Pagcor, PNOC, Toyota Motors, San Miguel Corp. and Petron Corp.

The winning pro will receive P165,840 and the top amateur P41,460 out of the total cash pot.



RUEL Banares walks away after being attacked by bees while waiting for his turn to putt at hole No. 8. JESS YUSON

17 rookies join Tour Pilipinas bikathon

SEVENTEEN new faces will ride alongside the grizzled veterans in next summer's Tour Pilipinas, which will kick off in the Visayas and cover a course that would circle much of Luzon.

The 17 new riders were among the 48 who hurdled last weekend's two-day qualifying races in Batangas for the 2004 Tour that will again be principally bankrolled by Air21 and backed by FedEx, Mail and More, BPI-MS, Lipovitan and Caltex.

Next year's Tour will cover 17 stages spread over 21 days from March 15 to April 4.

Former Tour champion Victor Espiritu topped the qualifying which attracted 229 aspirants from all over the country. The 48 will join the top 36 finishers in last summer's Tour.

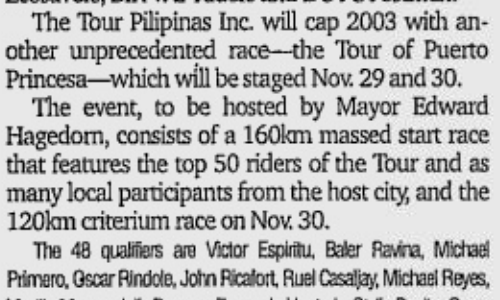
The riders will be drafted by the 12 teams in the Tour Pilipinas in appropriate rites set Dec. 17. The teams are Tanduay, PagcorSports, PLDT-NDD, Intel, Samsung, Gilbey's Island Punch, Bowling Gold, DILG Patrol 117, DILG Drug Busters, DENR Ecosavers, BIR VAT Riders and DOTC Postmen.

The Tour Pilipinas Inc. will cap 2003 with another unprecedented race—the Tour of Puerto Princesa—which will be staged Nov. 29 and 30.

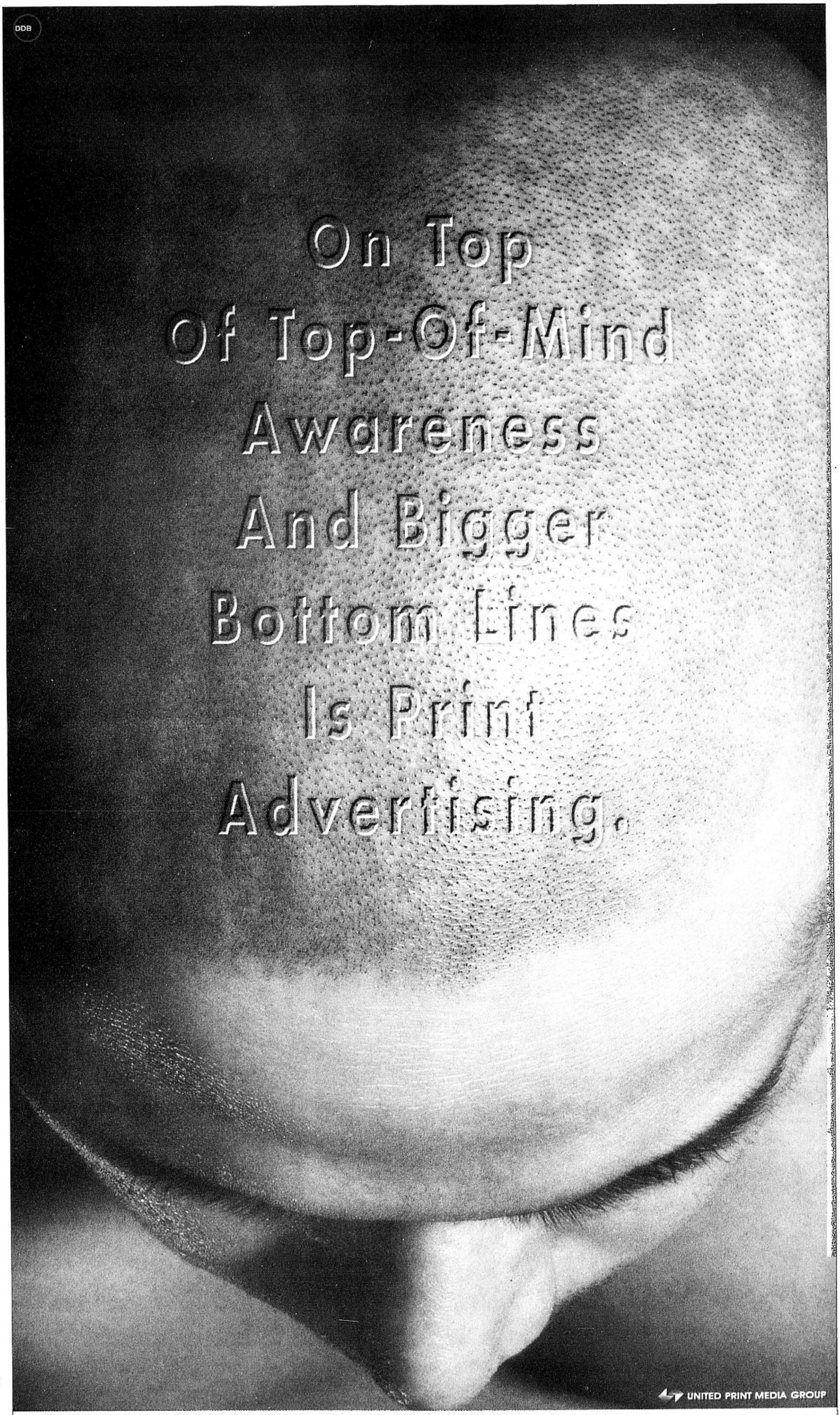
The event, to be hosted by Mayor Edward Hagedorn, consists of a 160km massed start race that features the top 50 riders of the Tour and as many local participants from the host city, and the 120km criterium race on Nov. 30.

The 48 qualifiers are Victor Espiritu, Baler Ravina, Michael Primero, Oscar Rindole, John Ricafort, Ruel Casaljay, Michael Reyes, Virgilio Muena, Julie Panong, Bernardo Llentada, Stalin Benito, Oscar Fronda, Alvin Benosa, Desi Hardin, Benito Lopez, Ryan Mendoza, Ronnel Hualda, Villamor Baluyot, Saul Servino, Orly Villanueva, Johnny Dasala, August Benedicto, Jayson Garillo, Jay Tolentino, Joel Guillen, Jun Villanueva, Joelfrey Talaver, Marcial Robosa, Emil Pablo, Virgilio Quintia Jr., Robert Vilaver, Noel Rito, Rayzon Galdonez, Elmer Atilano, Darwin Marana, Tomas Martinez Jr., Roberto Pagala, Jesus Garcia, Gerard Aslado, Dionisio Mendoza, Gary Apolinar, Leonardo Lingas Jr., Dante Valdez, Virgilio Espiritu, Art de la Cruz, Dionisio Posilero Jr., Bergonio Gregorio Jr. and Dominado Tacutaco.

Seeded to the 2004 Tour based on their order of finish last summer are Arnel Quirimit, Merculio Ramos, Warren Davadilla, Rhyan Tanguilig, Ronald Gorrantes, Enrique Domingo, Bernard Luzon, Lloyd Reynante, Allie Catalan, Felix Celeste, Placido Valdez, Albert Primero, Arnold Marcelo, Renato Dolosa, Joseph Millanes, Santy Barnachea, Frederick Feliciano, Danny Ganigan, Sherwin Diamsay, Lito Atilano, Carlo Jasul, Fernando Alagano, Reynaldo Navarro, Paterno Curtan, Joel Calderon, Ericson Obosa, Carlo Guieb, Reinhard Gorrantes, Nilo Estayo, Manuel Mendoza, Euseblo Quinones, Paolo Manapol, Arthurs Bucay and Gerry Amar, Eric Tolentino and Wilfredo Calosa.



BASKETBALL'S LOSS... Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) president Victor Valbuena (left) administers the oath to Freddie Jalasco, erstwhile president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, as Tatap executive vice president. Jalasco's appointment will enhance the developmental and international programs of the sports association, Valbuena said.



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Korea spikers shock France

SOUTH Korean Chang Byung-Chul (left) spikes the ball over French defender Stephane Antiga during the World Cup men's volleyball tournament. AFP

HAMAMATSU, Japan—Asian champions South Korea defeated the European silver medalists France in the World Cup men's volleyball tournament on Thursday.

The Korean spikers struggled with the French high blocking in the opening set, but man of the match Chang Byung-Chul's spirited attacks led his side to a 20-25, 25-23, 25-23, 25-21 victory.

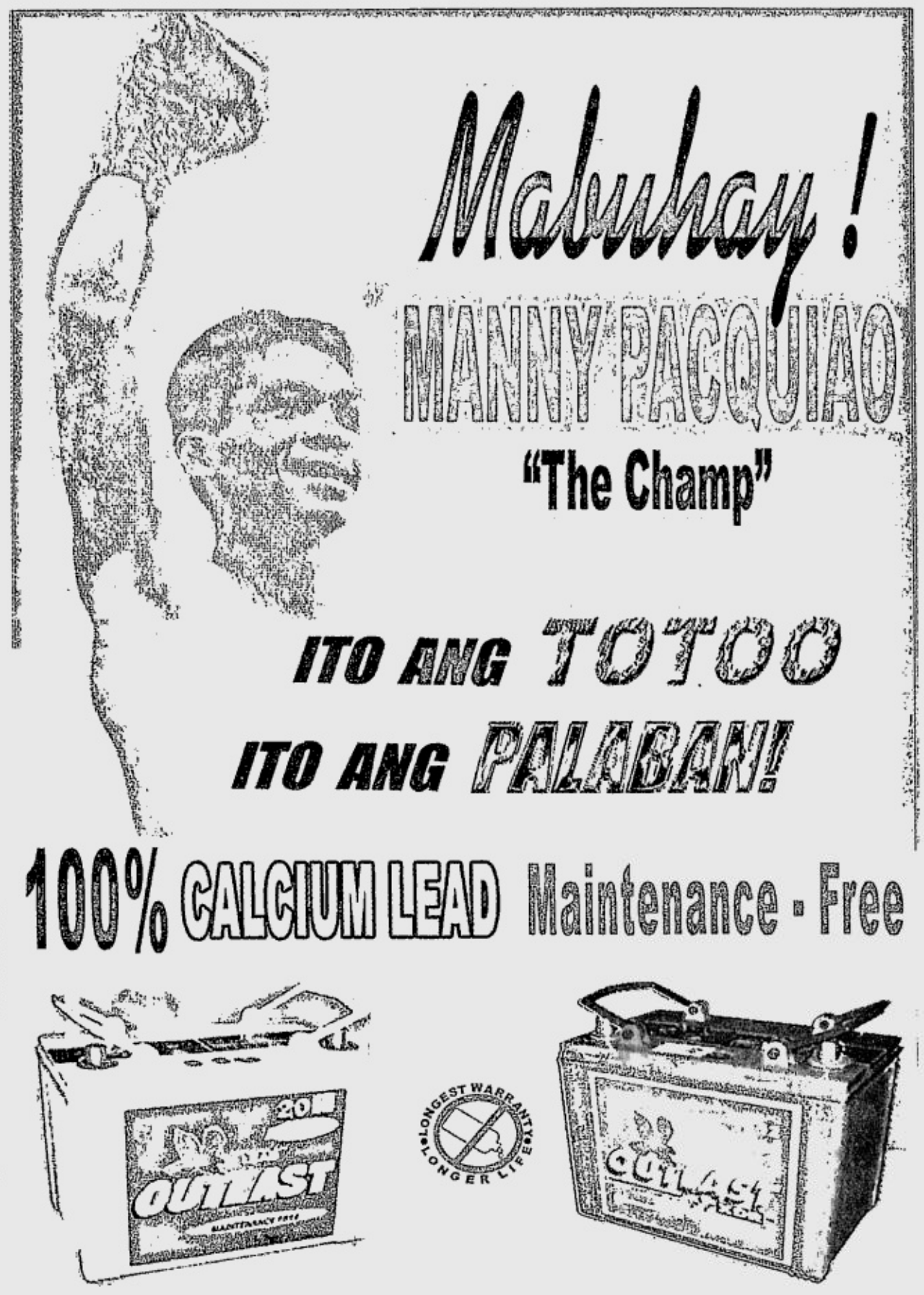
"The French are technically very good and much taller than us, which made it very hard for us in the first set. We couldn't adjust our defense against them," said Korean coach Cha Joo-Hyun.

"But we started to read the course of their spikes and attacks much better from the second set and we were able to defend against their attacks really well by blocking and receiving them." Both South Korea and France have two wins against two defeats in the 12-team round robin competition, vying for the three tickets for the Athens Olympic Games next year.

In Hiroshima, western Japan, Sydney Olympic gold medalists Serbia and Montenegro chalked up a fourth straight win beating Canada, 25-14, 23-25, 25-20, 26-24.

In other games, China and Venezuela posted their first wins in four matches beating Egypt, 25-22, 25-20, 31-29 and Tunisia 25-23, 25-21, 25-22, respectively. *AFP*

MIGHTY SWEEP
Members of the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club display their trophies after completing a sweep of three divisions in team play during the Visayas leg of the 2003 Sta. Lucia Golf Tour which the Cebuanos hosted. The course-hopping series goes to Luzon for the final leg to be jointly hosted by Royale Tagaytay, Orchard and Eagle Ridge on Dec. 4-6.



Ad Congress trade exhibit opens

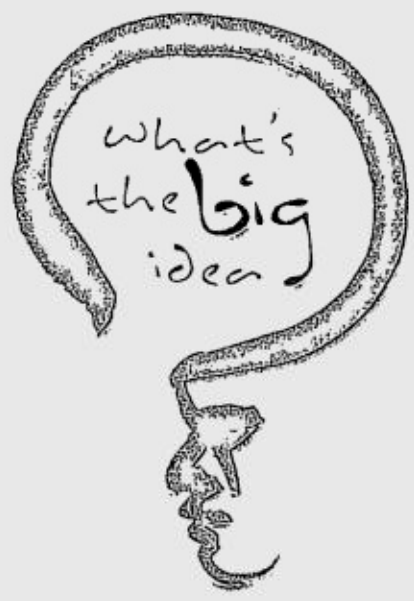
BAGUIO CITY (via Bayantel) - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led anew yesterday's opening of the trade exhibit area of the Ad Congress at the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay, Baguio City.

The President led the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon and made the rounds of colorful exhibitors' booths that showered delegates with attractions and giveaways. The trade exhibit hall is located in the west wing of the convention area.

Among the exhibitors were sponsors and partners of the Ad Congress. Bayantel, Quest Broadcasting (Internet Service Providers) and other companies offered free internet access via DSL and broadband internet access. Free domestic calls, voice over IP and videoconferencing were also offered for free by some exhibitors.

ABS-CBN and Philippine Star offered photo opportunities wherein delegates could appear on the cover of the newspaper and niche magazines like Metro, Metro Working Mom, Pulp, Youngstar, etc. ABS-CBN also set-up television sets showing their banner programs and the "Kapamilya" video clip. Philippine Daily Inquirer had an online voting booth for the 2004 presidential elections and a rally racing video game. Manila Bulletin dressed up its booth and gave out jackets and magazines. On the other hand, Manila Broadcasting Corporation conceptualized entertainment games like "Roleta" and "Bingo Bonanza". Smart showcased its enhanced text services at their booth, while GMA 7 showed "Kapuso" clips.

Traditionally a sidelight of the Ad Congress, the trade exhibit this year lives up to the billing of the 18th PAC as a showcase of "big ideas." Heading the trade exhibit committee is Egay Navalta.



GMA exhorts advertising to unite nation

BAGUIO CITY (via Bayantel) - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for the initiative and vigilance of the advertising industry in pushing the nation toward economic development through national reconciliation and unity during her keynote speech before delegates of the18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) on its formal opening held at the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay, Baguio City.

The President was the guest of honor at the premier advertising event, which is being hosted this year by the media sector of the Advertising Board of the Philippines. She was joined by members of her Cabinet led by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Presidential Adviser for the Cordillera Region Silvestre Afable, and Presidential Adviser for Priority Projects Marita Jimenez. Also present were Baguio City Congressman Mauricio Domogan, Mayor Bernardo Vergara, Advertising Board of the Philippines chairman Cerge M. Remonde, and 18th PAC overall chairman Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, also chairman and CEO of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation.

"You, the advertisers, are in a way more powerful than the Presidency. Not only do you influence confidence, you also influence the pace of the economy," Arroyo said to over 3,000 delegates of the Ad Congress.

The President said that the advertising industry is instrumental in contributing to the country's economic development through increased marketing activities and positive consumer confidence that help Philippine business get brisker.

"This government fully recognizes your strength as a major economic force of the country, whose primary concern is economic development," she added.

She also reiterated her earlier call for national unity by challenging the audience to use their intelligence and creativity in contributing to the efforts of the administration to unite the country.

"This is a country of intelligent people. But why are we miserable? It's because we delight in the things that divide us more than the things that unite us," she said.

Filipinos should be relentless in the pursuit of national unity, no matter how impossible it looks, the President added. "No fear or resistance should distract us from our vision."

The President also stressed: "If we must survive, national unity and reconciliation is the resolution that is non-negotiable."

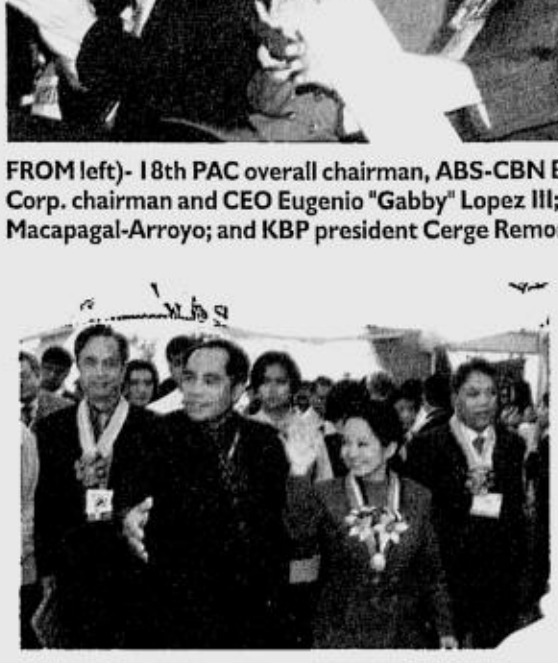
She capped her address by calling the advertising industry to use its influence on the Filipino mind to move people into thinking and action by making Filipinos believe that the nation's history is still far from ending but just giving itself a fresh start.

The 18th Ad Congress theme, "What's the Big Idea?," aims to thrust Philippine advertising into the global arena, banking on big Filipino ideas with the potential to make the country one of the world's creative capitals.

(FROM left) - Baguio City Mayor Bernardo Vergara; 18th PAC overall chairman Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III; President Macapagal-Arroyo; KBP president Cerge Remonde; and Baguio City congressman Mauricio Domogan

FROM left)- 18th PAC overall chairman, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. chairman and CEO Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III;President Macapagal-Arroyo; and KBP president Cerge Remonde.

(FROM left) 18th PAC overall chairman Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III and President Macapagal-Arroyo.



(FROM left) 18th PAC overall chairman Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III; 18th PAc trade exhibit chairman Egay Navalta; andPresident Macapagal-Arroyo

Ad Congress Trade Exhibit Showers with Big Prizes

EXHIBITORS of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) showcased their products and services at the Trade Exhibit Hall of the west wing of the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay in Baguio City during the 3-day convention.

The exhibitors are the sponsors and partners of the Ad Congress. Bayantel, Quest Broadcasting (Internet Service Providers) and some other companies offered free internet access via DSL and broadband internet excited the crowd. Free domestic calls, voice over IP and videoconferencing were also practically offered for free by some exhibitors.

ABS-CBN and Philippine Star offered photo services wherein delegates can appear on the cover of their lifestyle magazines, like Metro, Metro Working Mom, etc. Philippine Daily Inquirer has online voting booth for the 2004 presidential elections. Manila Bulletin dressed up its booth and gave out jackets and magazines. On the other hand, Manila Broadcasting Corporation conceptualized entertainment games like "Roleta" and "Bingo Bonanza". Smart showcased their enhanced text services at their booth. GMA 7 put up television sets for showing its 'kapuso' clips

Everyday, exhibitors have prepared various activities to delight the participants of the Congress.

ADVT

Chessers, wushu bets Scoop guests

CHESS and wushu will be featured in the SCOOP Sa Kamayan session today at the Kamayan Restaurant on East Avenue, Quezon City. Eugene Torre, who led a 1-2-3 Filipino finish in Belgium, Rene Catalan and Alvin Ting, gold medalists in the recent World Wushu Championships, will lead the guests.

SPORTS

Aubrey, Maui grace indoor cycling

SEXY FHM Cover Girls Aubrey Miles and Maui Taylor will be among the hottest attractions in the 1st FHM Indoor Cycling and Group Exercise Marathon organized by Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club today along West Avenue in Quezon City. Judges include FHM editor in chief Eric Ramos. The event will start at 5 p.m.

NCRAA begins with 5 games

DEFENDING champion St. Francis of Assisi College parades one of its tallest rosters for the last time when it clashes with Emilio Aguinaldo College at 1:30 p.m. as the 11th National Capital Region Athletic Association's men's basketball tournament gets going today at the Blue Eagle gym in Quezon City.

Philippine School of Business Administration tackles Polytechnic University of the Philippines in the opening 10:30 a.m. match of a heavy five-game schedule.

National team standouts Ranidel de Ocampo and Ervin Sotto are on their last playing year with the Doves, who will be showcasing what could be their most talented and tallest roster in the NCRAA for the last time.

But they are expecting tougher times ahead with squads from host Philippine School of Business Administration, Lyceum, La Salle-Manila, La Salle-Dasmariñas and Emilio Aguinaldo College showing a lot of improvement for the past years.

PIERCE: Semifinal loser. AP

US netters up

MOSCOW—Anastasia Myskina battled back from match point down to prevent a disastrous first day for Russia as the Fed Cup favorites tied France 1-1 in their semifinal Wednesday.

The United States had an expected 2-0 lead over Belgium, but only after Meghann Shaughnessy also survived a match point in a grueling marathon against unheralded Kirsten Flipkens.

"Sometimes you have to win ugly," US captain Billie Jean King said.

Myskina evened the best-of-five match 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5 over two-time Grand Slam champion Mary Pierce, after Russia's gamble on Vera Zvonareva backfired when France's Amelie Mauresmo dispatched her, 6-2, 6-2.

In the first semifinal matches, Lisa Raymond cruised past Els Callens, 6-2, 6-1, and Shaughnessy outlasted Flipkens, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (8), 9-7 in a 3-hour, 12-minute battle.

World No. 17 Shaughnessy reached set point at 6-5 in the first, but sent a forehand long, and soon found herself down 6-1 in the tiebreaker, eventually losing it 7-4 to Flipkens, the world's top-ranked junior at age 17.

The United States, with Martina Navratilova scheduled to play doubles alongside Raymond on Thursday after the reverse singles, is seeking its 18th Fed Cup title.

Belgium won the Fed Cup in 2001 and France was the 1997 titlist. Russia has played in four finals. *AP*

King of the Road listing on

VETERAN marathoner Liza Delfin is expected to defend her title in the distaff side when the Adidas King of the Road fires off on Dec. 7 with prizes worth P100,000 at stake.

Registration for the premier road race has started at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. on Annapolis St. in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The race, which will be held at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio, will start and finish on 28th St., fronting the newly-built Adidas Sports Kamp.

With the absence of Vietnam Southeast Asian Games-bound athletes like Roy Vence, Eduardo Buenavista and defending champion Allan Ballester, the 10K race will be an occasion for the other tough runners to shine.

At stake in both the men's and women's races is the top purse of P10,000 plus a P10,000 gift certificate and trophies. The winners will also earn the right to represent the country in the International King of the Road race on Dec. 22 in Thailand where they will be vying for honors against champions from Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taipei and host Thailand.

Team and age group competitions are also on tap, with the placings of the first 25 runners of each 50-strong team counting towards the team score.

Entry fee is pegged at P150.00.

For inquiries, call 727-9987 or 785-3693.

RECORD BREAKER
China's Chunhong Liu lifts 150 kg in the clean and jerk category in group A of the women's 69 kg class at the World Weightlifting Championship in Vancouver, British Columbia, Nov. 19. Liu set eight world records overall for a total weight of 270 kg lifted. REUTERS

14-year-old football phenom turns pro

NEW YORK—Freddy Adu, the 14-year old football phenomenon, was formally introduced as Major League Soccer's newest signee Wednesday.

Excluding individual sports, Adu will become the youngest professional American athlete in more than 100 years when he takes the field next April.

"This is one of the most monumental days in the history of soccer in the USA," MLS commissioner Don Garber said at a news conference in New York. "With enormous pride and excitement, we announce that we have reached a long-term deal with young Mr. Freddy Adu, one of the most accomplished young soccer players in the world."

Adu will be assigned to D.C. United, which completed a trade with the Dallas Burn to gain the first pick in the SuperDraft.

Terms of Adu's contract were not disclosed.

Adu reportedly becomes the highest-paid player in the league, with a yearly salary of approximately $250,000. All players are signed to the league, not individual teams, as MLS is organized as a single-entity operation.

"Freddy is a very special player," MLS deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidas said. "He is the best young player in the world—not just in the USA, but in the world. The sky is the limit for this young man.

"A big part of this has been D.C. United. They have taken other young men in developing them as people and players, people we would be proud to call our sons, and that was a significant factor in the Adu family's comfort level." For MLS, the signing is a coup.

Adu, a naturalized American born in Ghana, has demonstrated a magnetic appeal that crosses the boundary between soccer buffs—a minority in the States—and average sports fans. He has been compared to Pele and Diego Maradona and is arguably the only player that might attract hard-core sports fans to an MLS match. Earlier this year, Nike signed Adu to a 1 million-dollar endorsement deal. *AFP*

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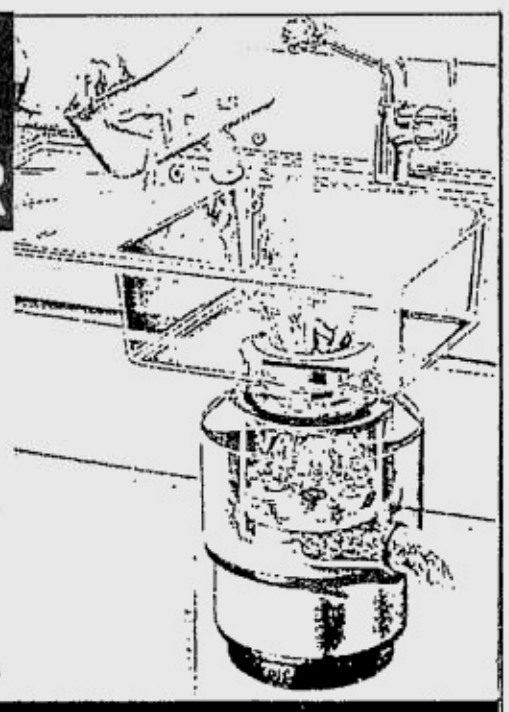

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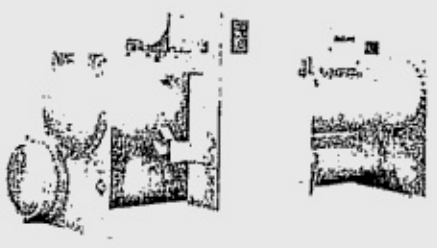

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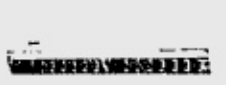

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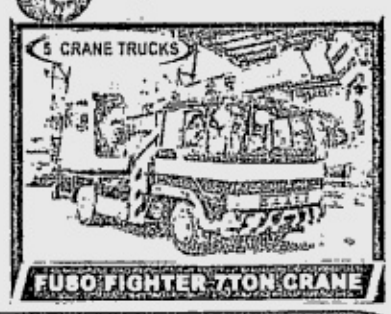

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

ERC orders Meralco to start 3rd phase of refund in January

Gov't debt load swells to P3.2T

Story on page B7

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has ordered Manila Electric Co. to implement the third phase of its refund to customers worth P4.91 billion starting in January.

Phase 3 covers residential and general service customers who consumed more than 300 kilowatt-hours based on their April 2003 bills. Such customers number about 823,000.

ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez said Meralco was expected to complete Phase 2 of the refund next month. "There is no reason why it cannot initiate the third phase (soon after)."

Sanchez said the distribution giant was ordered to complete Phase 3 within six months.

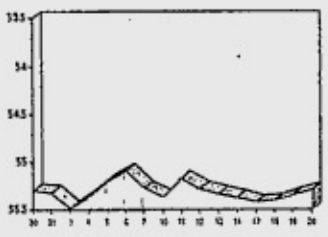
The order prescribes a period that was 18 months shorter and would start four months earlier than Meralco's proposal, he said.

The regulator also disagreed with the utility's proposal to refund Phase 3 customers on

3RD/ B4

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



GRAPHS BY TERE CRUZ

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 20, 2003

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PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

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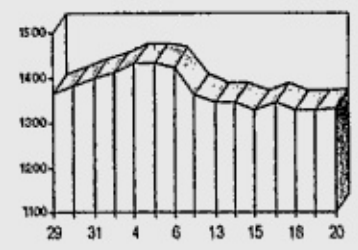

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Share prices rise 1.06%

SHARE prices closed 1.06 percent higher yesterday on the back of gains by telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) following a firmer Wall Street performance overnight, dealers said.

They said the local market moved in line with other regional bourses, which rose across-the-board in step with Wall Street.

However, the gains look vulnerable, they said, noting the thin trade, which suggested investors remained cautious awaiting further developments on the political front and the final list of candidates for the 2004 presidential election.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed up 14.03 points to 1,332.34, having traded between 1,323.21 and 1,334.23.

Volume rose to 241.98 million shares but value fell to P418.46 million from Wednesday's 190.83 million shares worth P511.94 million.

Losers outnumbered gainers 28 to 22, with 41 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index was up 0.11 points at 825.31 while the commercial-industrial index rose 12.66 to 1,977.68. Property was

SHARE/ B3

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Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Vicente Katigbak Fabella on his investiture as President of Jose Rizal University!

Hold the torch up high!

Picture courtesy of Quality Teacher Magazine

The millions of JRU alumni all over the country and scattered all over our small global village are urging you to carry the torch up high. We have faith in your leadership. And we support your relentless advocacy for affordable quality education, as it is consistent with the universal right to education as enshrined in our Constitution. Freedom from ignorance is as basic as the other freedoms in a democracy. Since 1919, Jose Rizal University has produced a remarkable number of successful graduates who have enjoyed the respect and admiration of the nation. Included among them are a President of the Philippines (Ramon Magsaysay '33), a Justice of the Supreme Court (Justice Jose Ma. Paredes, '23), a Governor of the Central Bank (Miguel Cuaderno), several members of the Legislature and the Cabinet (Faustino Sychangco, '27; Constancio E. Castaneda, '32; Armand V. Fabella, '53), leaders of educational institutions, captains of industry, commerce, agriculture, and trade (Amb. Bienvenido R. Tantoco, Sr., '31, of Rustan Group of Companies, Peter Kaw Sek, Jose O. Cobarrubias, P. B. Dionisio, Felipe Juico, J.P. Roxas, Elionor I. Pillas, Teodoro O. Arcenas Jr., Edgardo M. del Fonso, Joe Taruc of DZRH, and several officers of the Philippine Armed Forces and National Police, with the rank of General (e.g., Nestorio Gualberto, Josephus Ramas). We are confident that under your presidency, you will continue this JRU Mission of developing "its students to become useful and responsible citizens through the effective transfer of relevant knowledge and desirable values", 1) by providing balanced instruction in general education and technical knowledge, 2) by stressing the principles of representative government in a free society, 3) by inculcating respect for truth, 4) by teaching the art of critical thinking, knowledge integration and utilization, and, 5) by encouraging active participation in the process of national development.

Carry the torch, with honor and dignity!

The alumni are behind you...

Vicente Katigbak Fabella was born on December 28, 1964, to Armand Vincent Fabella and Marinela Katigbak, five years after the death of the first Filipino certified public accountant, Vicente Fabella. His birthday fell on Innocents Day according to the Gregorian calendar; and the common belief among the old folks is that children born on that day are generally short of intelligence.

As fate would have it, the strength of his genetic provenance prevailed over the Innocents Day myth. He has hurdled academic milestones one after another, namely, (1) Kindergarten at José Rizal College, (2) elementary and secondary education at La Salle Greenhills, (3) a post-secondary year at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, followed by (4) an A.B. in Economics and Development Studies from Brown University in Rhode Island in 1987; (5) a Master in Public Administration, with concentration in advanced public policy analysis, from Columbia School of International and Public Affairs in New York in 1991; (6) a Master in Business Administration, with concentration in business policy, finance, and economics, from Columbia Business School in New York in 1992; and finally (7) a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration, specializing in business strategy, and in particular, industrial economics and game theory, from the University of the Philippines in Diliman in 1999. He also attended the New Presidents' Course given at Harvard University earlier this year.

He worked with NEDA as an economic development analyst, and taught part-time in the Graduate School of the then José Rizal College, basically, his baptism of fire in the teaching profession. His other professional exposures included work at Price Waterhouse-Joaquin Cunanan, as manager for corporate finance and strategic services, specializing in project finance; and AIG Investment Corporation, Philippines, as associate director for direct investments. He became the department head for Economics at JRU in 1992 when he returned from his masters' degrees at Columbia University. Subsequently, he became the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, moved on to become its Dean, and later, as Vice President for Academic Affairs, and finally as Executive Vice President. The Board of Trustees appointed him as President of José Rizal University effective January 1, 2003, vice Dr. Jose D. Baltazar.

His colleagues and friends see him as a well-rounded academician, an intellectual whose two feet are solidly anchored on the ground. He is circumspect and uses few words to make big points. He makes it a point to reach out in his friendly way, to all stakeholders and publics of the University. He meets the attributes of the modern-day University CEO, responsive and proactive to the needs, wants and expectations of the global community. For him, CEO means, Customers, Employees, and Owners. He has a disarming manner that could be described as politely and tenaciously focused, especially in his advocacy of affordable quality education and academic excellence.

He is married to Maria Margarita Naval, a pediatrician. The couple is blessed with three children, Denise, Isabelle, and Emmanuel.

Greetings from

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Digitel starts $200-M bond offer on Nov. 24

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOKONGWEIS' Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel), the country's second biggest fixed-line provider, will push through with its $200-million convertible bond offering to stockholders next week.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Digitel said the offering period would start on Nov. 24 and run until Dec. 5.

A new entrant in the robust cellular phone business, Digitel plans to use proceeds from the offering to beef up its wireless brand Sun Cellular.

The offering, which will consist of 10-year zero coupon bonds, was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission early this year.

Based on the previous application with the SEC, the bonds, offered to Digitel's shareholders as of end-December 2002, will have a yield to maturity rate of 12 percent (before payment of 20-percent tax) from its issue date until its maturity in 2013. It will have a face value of $31.11 million.

The dollar-denominated, zero-coupon bonds may be redeemed in whole or in part at the option of the company within the 10-year period until its maturity date. The bondholders also have the option to have their bonds converted into common shares at a conversion price of P1 per share.

Shareholders are entitled to subscribe to $1 worth of bonds for every 217 shares at face value but those who own 65,100 shares or less shall be limited to purchase $300 worth of securities. On the other hand, those owning more than 65,100 shares are entitled to buy a larger amount of bonds in accordance with the above-mentioned ratio.

Digitel initially invested P13 billion in infrastructure development for Sun Cellular and an additional P7 billion has been provided for continuous improvement for this year.

The company earlier asked the SEC to exempt its bonds from registration since the debt paper will be issued only to a limited group consisting of the company's 7,005 shareholders as of end-December last year.

Section 10.2 of the Securities Regulation Code states that the SEC may exempt security issues from registration requirements if "it is not necessary for public interest or for the protection of investors such as the reason of the small amount involved or the limited character of the offering."

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Renewable energy mission draws funding support

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A RECENT renewable energy trade mission in Europe raised as much as $150 million in funding for potential wind, solar and mini-hydro projects in the country, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said.

In a statement, Perez said that under the Philippine renewable energy policy framework launched in May, the government aimed to double the country's renewable energy-based power generating capacity over the next 10 years.

The government also planned for the country to be the world's leading geothermal energy producer, Southeast Asia's leading wind power producer, and a regional hub of solar wafer manufacturing.

The contribution of renewable energy resources to the energy mix was seen to increase by 10 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent within the next 10 years, Perez said.

The official added that he had urged the governments of other Southeast Asian countries to set similar targets covering the next five years.

He said he would push for this to be part of the Asean Energy Plan of Action, which would be ratified in the next Asean Ministers on Energy Meeting to be held in Cebu next year.

Last month, Perez said energy firms based in Spain had expressed keen interest in investing in wind and solar power projects in the Philippines.

He said he had urged Spanish firms to take part in making the Philippines their hub in Asian investments.

Perez reiterated that the country aimed to be the biggest wind power producer in Southeast Asia within 10 years.

The official said the Philippine mission addressed a forum hosted by the Consejo Superior de Camaras de Comercio and, in particular, met with officials of Soluziona--Spain's leading power consulting and engineering services firm.

Soluziona is also a minority stakeholder in distribution giant Manila Electric Co. with a right to one seat in the board of directors.

Share prices rise...

From page B1

up 13.58 at 564.91, while mining shed 13.02 to 1,670.51. Oil was lower by 0.02 at 1.36 and banking and financial services ended higher by 4.79 at 423.91.

"Today's rise was more a technical correction and does not herald another rally," said Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities.

Technical charts suggest further downside to the 1,290-1,300 level before the market could sustain steady gains, she noted.

The below-ceiling budget deficit for October and the first 10 months was also welcomed by investors as an indication of the government's improving fiscal discipline.

The government announced Wednesday that the budget deficit stood at P21.17 billion in October, lower than the P22.33 billion ceiling, on the back of higher revenue collection.

PLDT ended up P20 at P745, following the rise of its American Depositary Receipts (ADR) in New York last night, which gained six US cents to $13.56.

Globe Telecom ended down P10 at P760. "B" shares of San Miguel Corp. were unchanged at P60 while SM Prime gained 20 centavos at P6.50.

Manila Electric Co. "B", open to foreigners, was up P1.50 at P21.50 while Meralco "A" closed up 50 centavos at P14.

Ayala Land and parent Ayala Corp. gained 10 centavos each to close at P5.80 and P4.95, respectively. *AFP*

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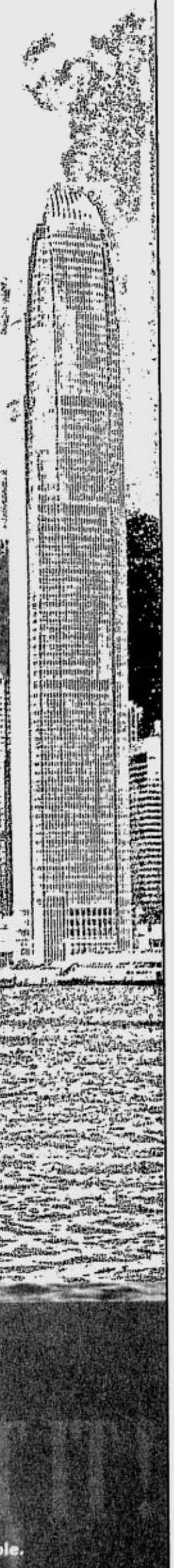

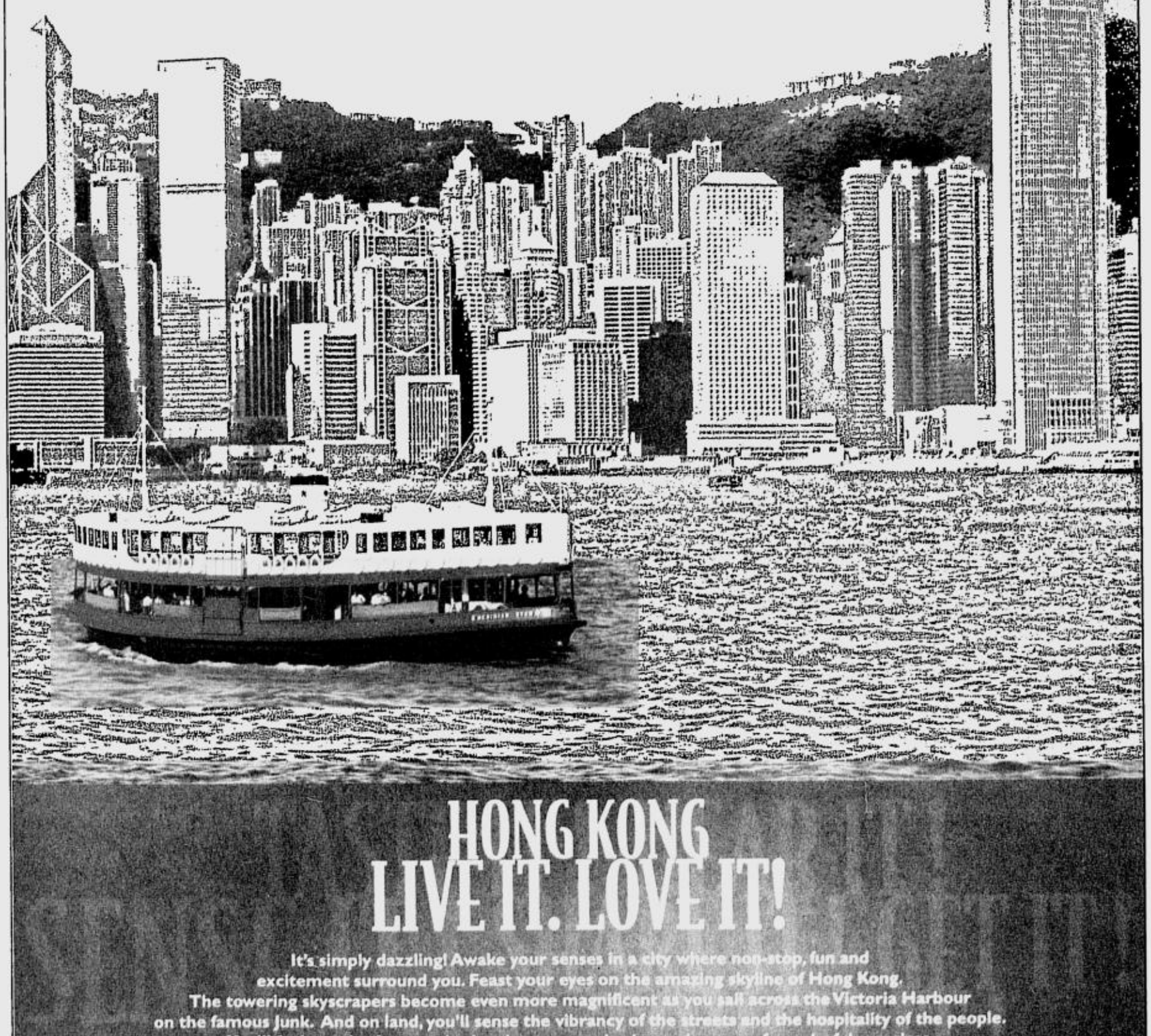

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Policy, programs and politics

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

FIFTEEN years ago, a talented young government official by the name of Ramon Lopez brought honor to our country. He graduated among the top students from Williams College, an academic institution in the United States known to be among the best in the area of economic development.

When he came back to the Philippines, I asked for his most important learning from this program. He said, "For economic development, government policy has far more impact than government programs."

He continued, "If you have good programs but a bad policy, success will be quite limited. But if you have a good policy, even though government programs are inadequate, the private sector will be motivated to work in a way that best benefits the economy."

Small business loans

An example which shows clearly that policy has much more impact than programs is the case of loans to small business.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) used to manage a small business loan program called "Tulong sa Tao" (TST) initiated by former DTI Secretary Jose Concepcion, Jr. At that time, it was cited by the Asian Development Bank as the best program of its kind in Asia.

While most government small loan programs experienced decreasing loanable funds because of repayment rates of less than 30 percent, the opposite was true for TST.

From an initial loanable fund of P1.3 billion, this increased to P1.8 billion. Using more than 1,500 nongovernment organizations (NGO's) as loan conduits, TST helped create at least 180,000 new jobs.

A major reason for this impressive success was the composition of the decentralized and empowered TST provincial loan committees. Each had four private sector members and only one government representative. This was very different from many government loan programs at that time, where only government officials made the loan decisions. The participation of the private sector in these committees provided an effective shield from selfish politicians (called *idiotes* in ancient Greece) who were exerting political pressure for their own selfish ends.

Policy example

But though TST contributed meaningfully to economic development, it is much less significant than a policy that was proposed by people truly concerned with the welfare of their communities (called *polites* in ancient Greece).

Then Senator Leticia Shahani and then Congressman Gary Teves sponsored a bill advocating a government policy which mandated banks to allocate at least 10 percent of their loanable funds to small business. They were supported by other *polites* such as Senator Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. and then Congressman Emigdio Tanjuatco.

When this government policy was implemented, it resulted in small business loans increasing from P16 billion to P132 billion in only five years.

A major reason for this success is the political will DTI showed in supporting this policy.

Unlike the Agri-Agra Law where banks could get the Treasury Bill rate for the mandated loan amounts that were not lent to agriculture, the DTI imposed a 20 percent penalty on this rate.

Faced with this penalty, banks which previously claimed they could not find enough bankable small businesses, suddenly found them. This resulted in more than a 700 percent increase in small business loans.

It is clear that this small business loan policy which influenced private sector action had a bigger impact than the government's TST program. Though government programs contribute much to economic development, it is government policy which motivates private sector action that has more far reaching consequences.

Agriculture

In agriculture, policy may play an even more critical role. Despite well-meaning government agriculture programs, a wrong policy environment may render these programs ineffective.

Take the case of agriculture tariff policy. If this follows too rapid a pace for trade liberalization, the taxpayers' money provided for many government agriculture programs will be largely wasted. This is because, without the necessary support structures, our farmers will not be able to compete against the cheaper imported products.

For example, if we liberalize rice now at a 50 percent tariff rate, the government rice programs in areas such as irrigation, post harvest facilities, seeds, and infrastructure will be useless.

Cheaper rice from Vietnam, Thailand and India will replace our rice if we are not ready, severely affecting our more than three million rice farmers who do not have the resources to shift to other crops. This is the sure recipe for fewer jobs, increased poverty, social unrest and more violence.

Instead of determining tariff policy according to a largely academic curve, we should instead look at the reality of our inadequate agricultural support structures. We should provide a schedule for their improvement, and then set tariffs according to this schedule. Not the other way around, which is setting the tariffs first, then promising government support structures which often are not given anyway.

The *polites* among the politicians should prevail over the *idiotes* among them in helping determine policy.

Conclusion

Ramon Lopez is now a senior executive in one of the country's biggest and most successful agribusiness corporations. For the past 15 years, he has seen what he learned at Williams College come true: policy, more than programs, has been a key factor in determining the pace of our economic progress.

It is hoped that he will soon see more of the good politics that will give the needed attention to correct policy formulation.

With good policy driving the appropriate complementary programs from both the government and the private sector, economic development will be achieved sooner, especially for our much neglected agricultural sector.

The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of DA and DTI, and former chair and cabinet secretary of the Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02)851-6635.

ERC orders Meralco . . .

From page B1

ly through credits to future bills.

"The third phase involves the same customer class as the first and second phases. We cannot allow Meralco to restrict their options in collecting the amount due them," Sanchez said.

This means Phase 3 customers are given the option of availing themselves of the refund in cash.

For the fourth and final phase of the refund, Meralco had asked the ERC to allow it to issue financial instruments to cover the P18.6 billion in refund to big customers.

In a three-page document filed with the ERC on Oct. 24, Meralco proposed that the fourth and final phase of its P30-billion refund could either be through a financial instrument or fixed credit to bills, depending on the gross refund amount.

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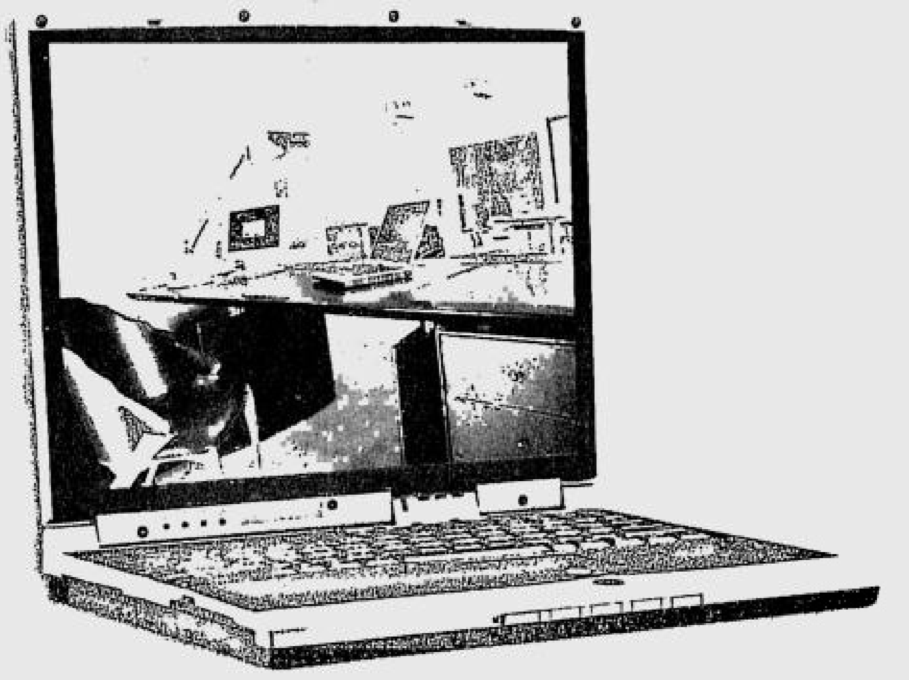

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC. (Registrant) — REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 12 November 2003, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. for the registration of P9,200,008 worth of common shares with the par value of P1.00 per share representing the entire issued and outstanding capital stock of the Company.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the Directors and Officers of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
Alicia Rita M. Arroyo	Chairman
Ernest C. Leung	President and Director
Enrique M. Aboitiz, Jr.	Director
Ramon Ang	Director
Wilson Ang	Director
Tomas V. Apacible	Director
Vicente R. Ayllon	Director
Rodolfo V. Cruz	Treasurer and Director
Peter B. Favila	Director
Gregorio U. Kilayko	Director
Francisco Ed. Lim	Director
Manila A. Limlingan	Director
Joseph R. Madrid	Director
Cayetano W. Paderanga, Jr.	Director
Myron Timothy P. Papa	Director
Jose G. Cervantes	SVP and Head, Listings and Disclosure Group
Ealberto P. Ocampo	SVP and Chief Technology Officer
Manolita U. Tan	VP and Head, Finance and Investments Group
Zayber John B. Protacio	VP and Head, Office of the General Counsel
Maria Lourdes A. De Guzman	VP and Head, Compliance and Surveillance Group
Imelda G. Nibungco	VP and Head, Human Resources Management Dept.

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

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Bangko Sentral keeps overnight interest rates unchanged

By Clarissa S. Batino

AS EXPECTED, the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas kept its overnight rates unchanged at 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending in yesterday's meeting in view of political developments that suggested a need for caution.

"The Monetary Board was of the view that the prevailing balance of risks for consumer prices has not changed significantly over the past six months. At the same time, it believes that aggregate demand, while improving, is still likely to follow a subdued path over the policy horizon," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a statement.

He said monetary authorities were not inclined to touch key policy rates either way despite the continued volatility of the peso and a lingering weakness of the economy even with fairly low interest rates.

The central bank governor earlier said that if Congress would pass a law lifting the documentary stamp tax on on secondary market transactions, the BSP could lower banks' reserve requirement.

A bank is required to keep as reserves 17 percent of its deposit funds. A lower reserve requirement would free more funds into the system.

"Once the DST is waived, we could have more flexibility because the BSP could engage in open market operations. I would rather see open market operations than imposing higher reserves that affect all banks regardless of their liquidity position," the BSP chief said earlier.

Both Houses of Congress have approved a bill rationalizing the DST. It is expected to be ratified soon.

The central bank's policy rates and the 91-day treasury bill rate are benchmarks used by banks in pricing their loans. These are tools used to stimulate the economy.

"There is no compelling reason to change. The weakness of the peso is not driven by interest rates," Buenaventura said.

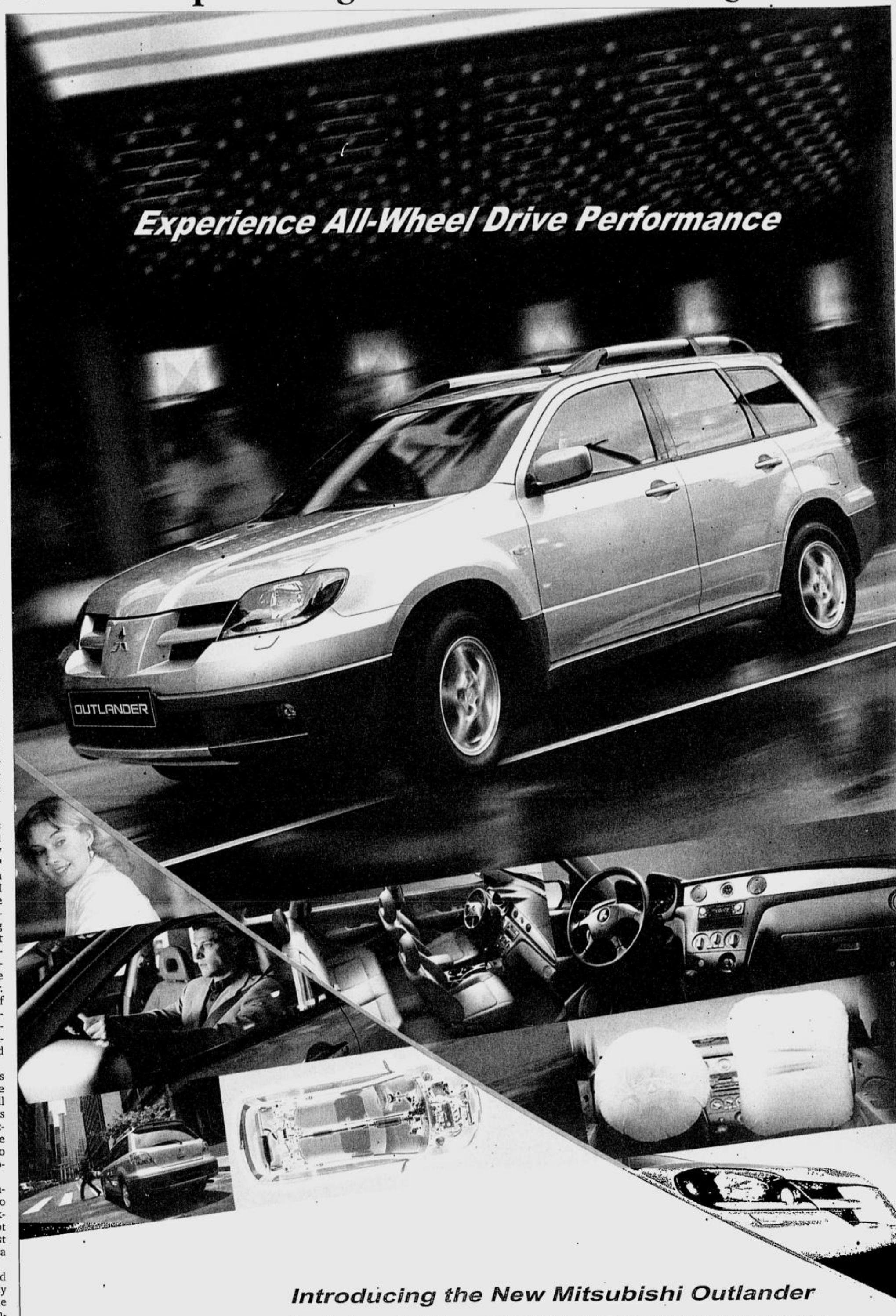
The BSP chief said the peso "was fairly stable" given the volatile political environment.

The central bank is also counting on the inflow of overseas workers to boost the supply of dollars in the market especially during the Christmas season. The BSP is expecting Filipinos abroad to send about $7.7 billion to their families this year from almost $7.2 billion in 2002.

Buenaventura said export receipts should also pick up toward year's end.

"The idea, especially during an election period, is to keep interest rates and exchange rates as stable as they can be. If rates in the United States go up next

BANGKO/ B6



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Industry group backs duty on imported cement

By Michelle V. Remo

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries has expressed support to the local cement industry's plea for the retention of the P20.60-per-bag additional safeguard duty imposed on imported cement.

The Department of Trade and Industry warned it could withdraw the definitive safeguard measure, which was imposed in June this year, due to perceived abuse of the protection as manifested by the higher prices of local cement.

In a position paper submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry, FPI said the safeguard measure would protect local cement manufacturers, which claimed to be battered by lower-priced imports, from the threat of an import surge brought by excess capacities in China, Thailand and Indonesia.

"Even if this is not the case, non-tariff barriers on imports imposed by these and other countries in the region have rendered the Philippines relatively more vulnerable to import surges," it added.

FPI also said the perception of abuse of the safeguard measure was baseless, as prices went up due to various factors, including rising cost of electricity and fuel, and the depreciation of the peso.

The group added that cement prices went down immediately after the imposition of the safeguard measure, but went up recently due to the effects of the increasing costs of inputs.

"It should be remembered that the safeguard measure was granted to prevent serious injury to the local cement industry due to the inordinate influx of imported cement, and not to keep prices low even in the face of increasing cost of factor inputs."

After the granting of the safeguard measure, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said that prices of cement nationwide now range from P105 to P110 per 40-kilogram bag from last year's average of P80. He added that the price increase was questionable, considering the presumably lower demand due to the rainy season and the fewer government construction projects due to the huge budget deficit.

The FPI also raised the concern of labor groups on possible plant closures due to the inability of a local industry to compete against imports without protection from the government.

Citing the result of a recent survey, FPI said a "conservative" estimate of 85,000 factory employees and farm workers lost their jobs during the period 1995 to 2000 due to the government's tariff reductions and adherence to trade liberalization despite the lack of programs to strengthen local industries.

Bangko Sentral . . .

From page B5

year, our flexibility may allow us to keep rates where they are now," the BSP chief said earlier.

Questions were being raised why the policy-making Monetary Board has not reduced its policy rates to spur growth in a slow-moving economy when the inflation rate had remain subdued and way below the BSP's target of 4.5-5.5 percent this year and 4-5 percent in 2004.

In a environment of inflation-targeting that the BSP had adopted starting 2002, monetary policies must be pursued with the inflation target as the main consideration. So far, inflation has averaged at about 3 percent this year.

But economic growth was below target in the second quarter although authorities were expecting to meet even the low-end of the 4.2-5.2 percent growth in gross domestic product during the second half.

Buenaventura said he saw no further need to cut the central bank's overnight rates because there remained sufficient liquidity in the system to fuel the desired level of growth.

A 25-basis-point cut in overnight rates last July 2 was the only time the BSP had cut its rates this year after tightening policies in March when it raised the reserve requirement on banks by one percentage point and scrapped a tiering scheme that paid a decreasing rate on bank deposits with the BSP.

Gov't debt load swells to P3.2T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE OUTSTANDING debt of the national government swelled by 17.67 percent or by P480 billion to P3.2 trillion as of September from P2.72 trillion a year ago due to heavy borrowings of the Macapagal administration to pay maturing obligations.

Department of Finance documents showed that on a month-on-month basis, however, the level of debt rose marginally from P3.16 trillion in end-August.

As of July, the government had already exceeded its debt stock target of P3.06 trillion.

Obligations of the national government accounted for about 60 percent of the Philippines' total debt stock of P5.16 trillion as of end-2002. The total liabilities as of September even excluded P690.06 billion in contingent liabilities.

The level of contingent debt had increased substantially starting this year, indicating a burgeoning amount of sovereign guarantees that the government had given to state agencies as well as the private sector.

These obligations could become actual liabilities if the borrowing agencies fail to pay their debts.

During the nine-month period, debts that mostly carried sovereign guarantees rose 26.7 percent from P544.56 billion a year ago.

Domestic borrowings grew by P245 billion or 17.35 percent to P1.657 trillion in September from P1.41 trillion a year ago but was almost unchanged from the previous month.

As of September, the foreign debt component also increased by P335 billion or 25.7 percent to P1.64 trillion ($28.035 billion) from P1.3 trillion a year ago. Month-on-month, external borrowings of the national government went up by P138 billion or 9.19 percent.

A weaker peso in September at an average of 54.90 to a dollar compared to 52.45 a year ago even bloated the level of external obligations.

Relating the P3.2-trillion level of debt to population, each of the 82 million Filipinos accounts for a burden of P38,975 outside of any personal obligations.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the consolidated outstanding debt would likely swell to about P7 trillion over the next five to seven years before the government could start bringing it down to a more manageable level.

GMA backs 100-MW Iloilo power plant project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said that groups opposing the construction of a 100-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Iloilo would be partly accountable for the looming power shortage and rate increase in the region.

The President said in an interview with DZRH radio that the only solution to the projected energy crisis was the construction of more power plants particularly in the Visayas region where most of the island provinces have no indigenous power sources.

"Most of the region's power supply comes from Leyte and it costs a lot to carry them through transmission lines which is why power rates in the Visayas are expensive," the President said.

The Department of Energy has endorsed the South Korean power firm's 100MW coal-fired power plant to address the looming power crisis on Panay Island, which includes Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo and Guimaras. Other power suppliers such as Mirant, Power One and Alstom are also set to build their power plants in the region next year.

The Kepco project, however, has been vigorously opposed by residents of Iloilo who have expressed concern over the ill effects of the coal-fired plant on the health of children and pregnant women despite assurances from the government and the private proponent that the Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC) technology used by the plant would ensure the safe use of coal.

Aside from building more plants, the President also pushed for the privatization of National Power Corporation's transmission facilities as part of her government's strategy to pull down electricity rates in the country.

She said her government's efforts to reduce power costs in the country has been successful with the Philippines' electricity rates now the sixth highest in Asia, down from second place previously.

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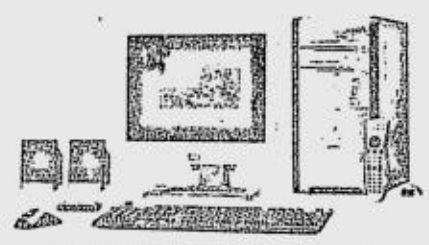

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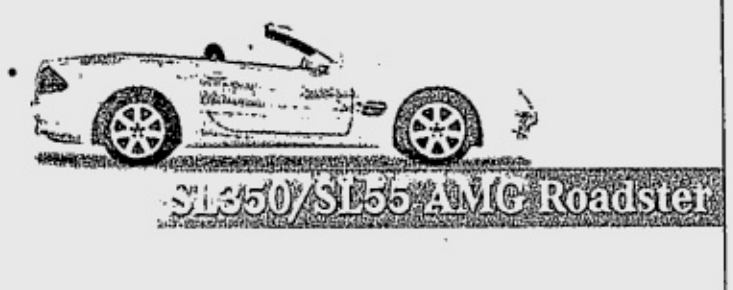
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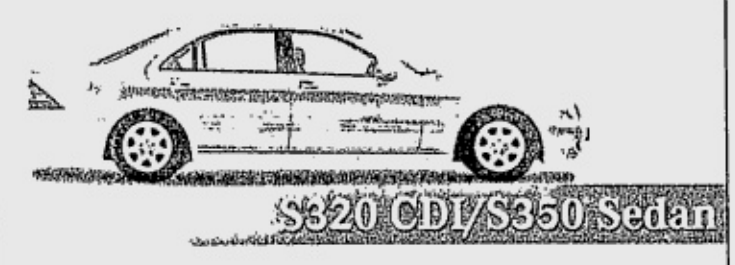
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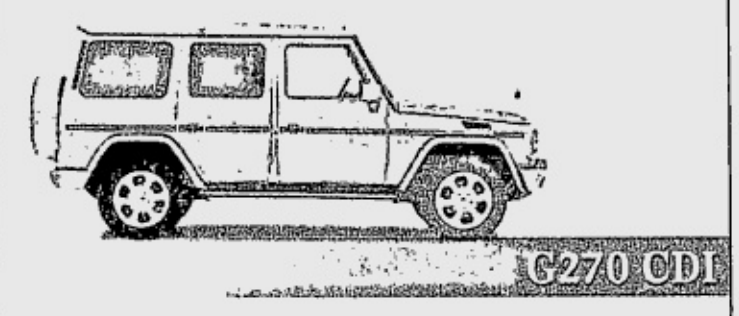
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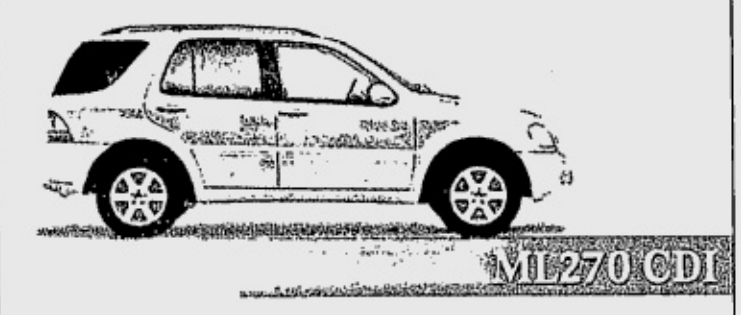
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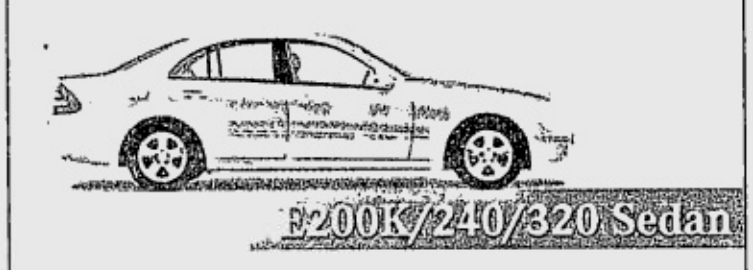
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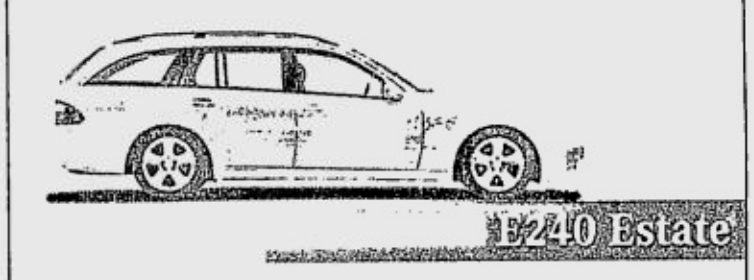
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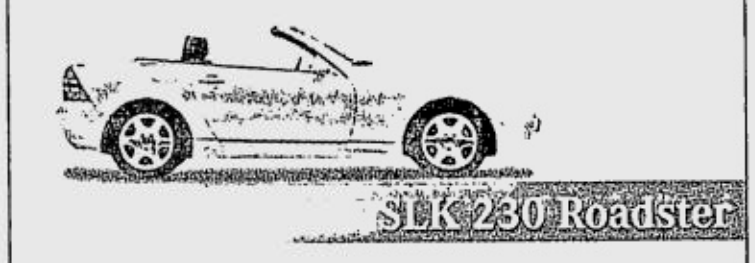
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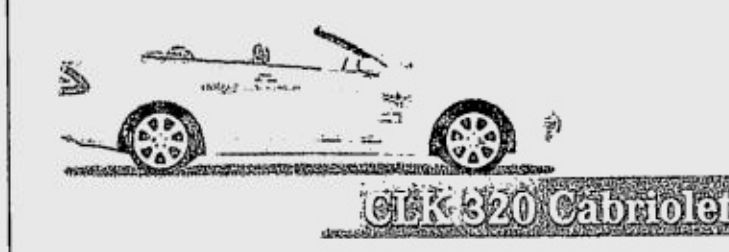
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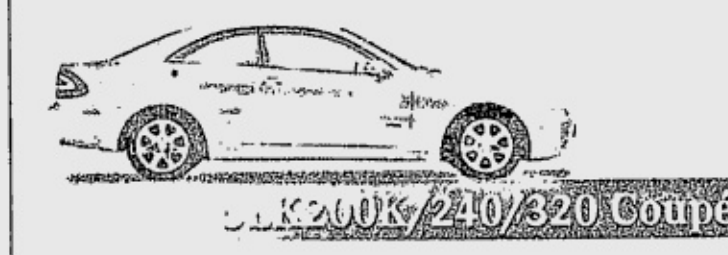
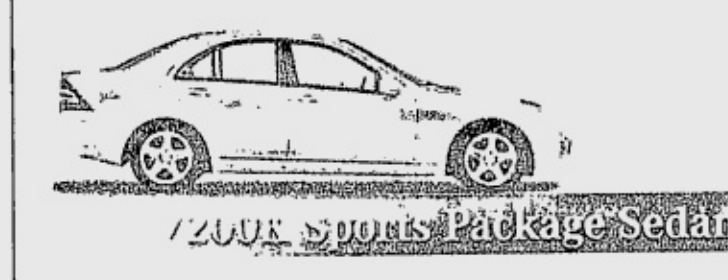
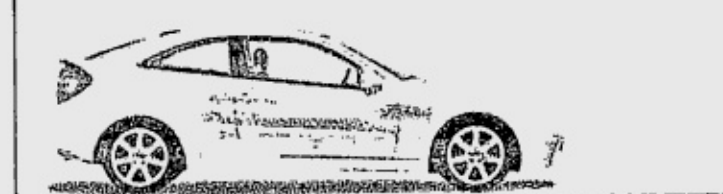

CLK200K/240/320 Coupé


C200K Sports Package Sedan


C200K Sports Coupé

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Rules on listing 'without public offering' to take effect Dec. 5

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to implement a new set of rules on listing by way of introduction—which refers to listing without any public offering—starting Dec. 5.

In a memorandum issued yesterday, the PSE said the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the blueprint that will apply to applications for listing of securities which are already issued or securities that will be issued upon listing where no offering shall be undertaken.

The new rules stated that listing by way of introduction shall only be allowed if any one of the following conditions existed:

- the securities for which listing is sought are already listed or traded or will simultaneously be listed on another stock exchange or, subject to the approval of the exchange, is listed on another trading market;
- the securities of an unlisted issuer are distributed by way of property dividend by a listed issuer to its shareholders;
- a holding company is formed and its securities are issued in exchange for the securities of one or more listed issuers and the listing of the listed issuer or issuers is withdrawn at the same time as the securities of the issuer are listed, and
- the listing in an exchange is mandated by law or by the SEC, in the exercise of its powers under the Securities Regulation Code (SRC).

The PSE itself is set to list by way of introduction by year's end to comply with the demutualization requirement of the SRC.

The new rules also stated that suitability of applicant companies will be based on the listing criteria established by the PSE for either its first or second board. The exchange, however, is not precluded from allowing a company, which is mandated by law or by the SEC, to be listed via this mode based on a special listing criteria to be agreed upon by the PSE and the SEC.

The rules prevent the listing by way of introduction in cases where demand is significant for securities or when the issuer is expressly required by law.

For applicant companies which are already listed or intend to be listed on another stock exchange, the following are the PSE's requirements:

- in case of simultaneous listing in another exchange, the issuer must provide evidence of its duly received and accepted listing application as well as the pertinent dates; and
- in case the applicant is already listed in another exchange or several exchanges, the issuer must be in compliance with the requirements of such exchange and the regulators.

Republic Cement posts bigger net loss in 9 months

REPUBLIC Cement Corp., a unit of French conglomerate Lafarge, said that its net loss in the first nine months of this year widened to P189 million from P82 million in the same period last year because of a decline in its selling prices.

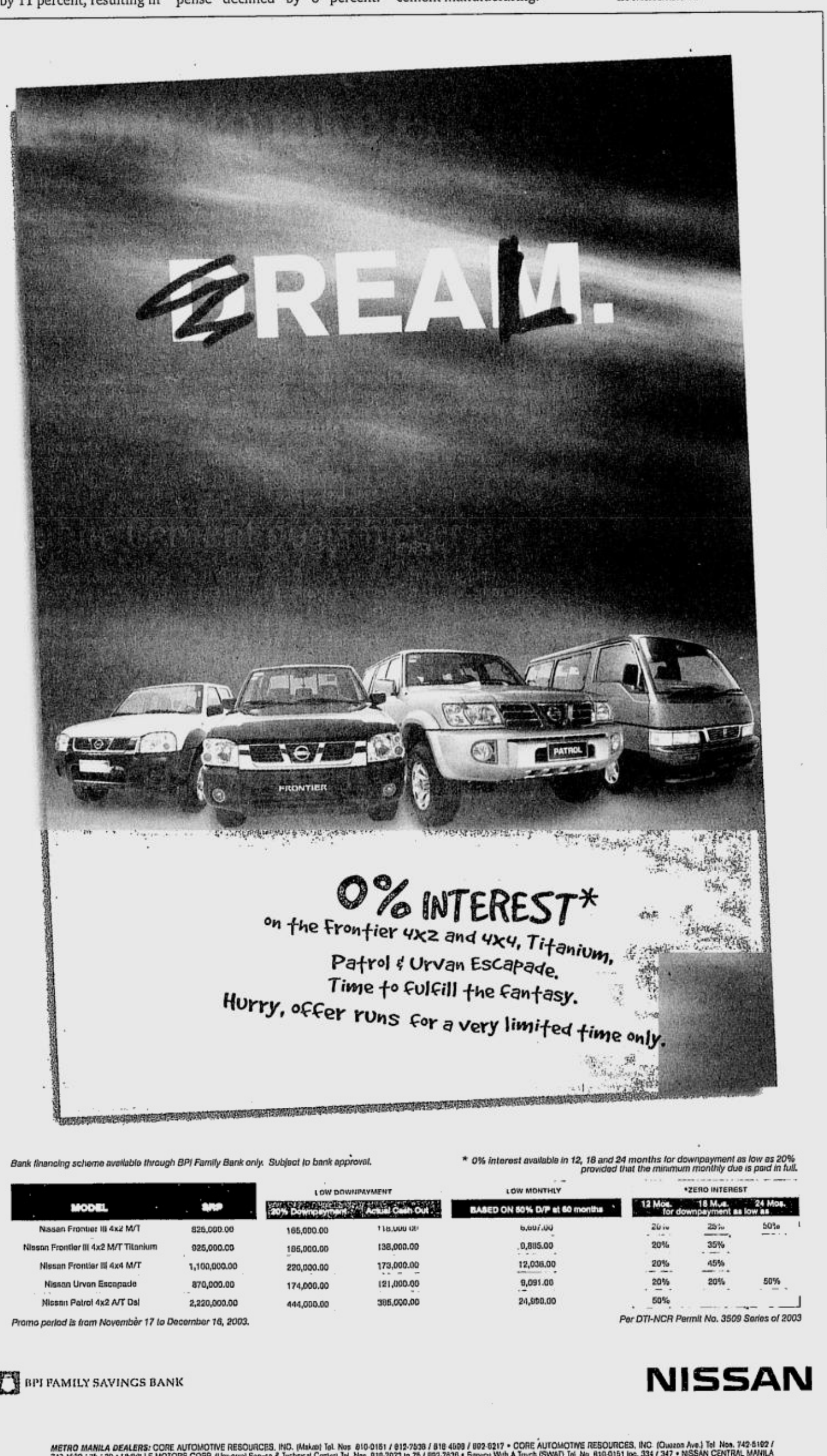
In a statement, RCC said that average prices declined over the period by 11 percent, resulting in a reduction of total revenue by P133 million despite an 8-percent rise in volume over the same period by 8 percent.

RCC disclosed that improvements in kiln reliability by 8 percent during the year led to a reduction in average cost per ton versus last year while interest expense declined by 6 percent. However, these positive developments failed to offset the effects of the lower average prices this year, it noted.

RCC said it anticipated additional pressure on production cost in view of the recent increases in the prices of coal and electricity, two main cost inputs for cement manufacturing.

The continuing pressure on the peso would likewise additionally affect the local conversion prices of the inputs, the cement firm added.

RCC and its subsidiaries have interests in four cement plants: Fortune Cement in Batangas, Republic Cement in Bulacan, Iligan Cement and Mindanao Portland in Mindanao.



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Nissan Frontier III 4x2 M/T	825,000.00	165,000.00	118,000.00	6,607.00	20%	25%	50%
Nissan Frontier III 4x2 M/T Titanium	925,000.00	185,000.00	138,000.00	8,885.00	20%	35%	
Nissan Frontier III 4x4 M/T	1,100,000.00	220,000.00	173,000.00	12,036.00	20%	45%	
Nissan Urvan Escapade	870,000.00	174,000.00	121,000.00	9,091.00	20%	20%	50%
Nissan Patrol 4x2 A/T Dsl	2,220,000.00	444,000.00	305,000.00	24,950.00	50%		

Promo period is from November 17 to December 16, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3509 Series of 2003

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 20, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	216,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	10,130
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	34	34	3,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	26	26	140,200
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	1,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	11,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	2,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Atr Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1640	1640	1640	20
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	818,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1315	1315	1315	1315	170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	16,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.68	80,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	770	750	760	43,370
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	1,900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.86	3,760,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	735	745	735	745	111,380
Ivantage Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	150,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	9,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14.25	13.75	14	440,800
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	21.5	20.5	21.5	1,056,400
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	1,030,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	360,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	660,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	45,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	440,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	26,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	12,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	110,200
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	51,100
San Miguel Corp. B	60	60	60	60	1,408,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.2	0.26	10,250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	1,495,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.45	14,500,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	950,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.045	0.045	0.04	0.04	4,900,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18.25	873,800
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	235,000
Megaworld Corp.	1	1.06	1	1.04	4,410,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,450,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.35	700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	580,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	250,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,600,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.88	360,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	74,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.57	0.53	0.57	1,700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,000,000
Manila Jockey Club	12	12	12	12	1,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	270,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	26	25.5	26	58,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.2	5 10.2	5 10.25	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10	10	10	10	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	3,336,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	19,079,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.115	1,780,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	890,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	217,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.5	7,358,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	4,330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	14,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	30,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	6,940,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	76,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	500,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **CADP Group Corp.** were Pedro Roxas, Miguel Gaspar, Senen Bacani, Geronimo Estacio, Santiago Elizalde, Antonio Roxas, Michael Escaler, Carlos Elizalde and Ramon Dimacali.

***

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank signed an agreement for remittance tie-up and exclusive co-branding in the United States of America with Chartered Forex Philippines Inc.

***

MUSIC Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 17, 2 p.m. at the Dasmariñas Room of Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City.

***

FORUM Pacific Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 12, 9 a.m. at the Makati Sports Club. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

BANK of the Philippine Islands declared a regular cash dividend of P0.80 per share.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 250,000 of its own shares at P1.32 per share.

***

CITYLAND Inc. bought shares and increased its stake in Cityland Development Corp. from 46.59-percent to 50.40-percent.

***

KUOK Philippines Properties Inc. denied having any information that can explain the 40-percent decrease in its share price that fell from P0.21 to P0.13 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 20, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.841113634	1.000000	55.349000
Japan	Yen	0.0077	0.009154	0.506700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.428968	1.698900	94.032400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108402	0.128879	7.133300
Switzerland	Franc	0.643594	0.765169	42.351300
Canada	Dollar	0.645125	0.766989	42.452100
Singapore	Dollar	0.491018	0.583771	32.311100
Australia	Dollar	0.607873	0.722700	40.000700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.231189	2.652661	146.822100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224303	0.266674	14.760100
Brunei	Dollar	0.489589	0.582072	32.217100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000099	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021075	0.025056	1.386800
UAE	Dirham	0.229018	0.272279	15.070400
Euro	Euro	1	1.188900	65.804400
Argentina	Peso	0.293071	0.348432	19.285400
Brazil	REAL	0.285995	0.340020	18.819800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134428	0.159821	8.845900
India	Rupee	0.018474	0.021964	1.215700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221375	0.263193	14.567500
Mexico	New Peso	0.075186	0.089389	4.947600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536973	0.638407	35.335200
Norway	Kroner	0.122364	0.145478	8.052100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014921	0.017740	0.981900
South Africa	Rand	0.127249	0.151286	8.373500
Korea	Won	0.000715	0.000850	0.047000
Sweden	Kroner	0.111323	0.132352	7.325600
Syria	Pound	0.016332	0.019417	1.074700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024812	0.029499	1.632700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000527	0.000627	0.034700

OPEN LETTER TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF CYBER BAY CORPORATION

In a Resolution dated 11 November 2003 in *Chavez v. Public Estates Authority and Amari Coastal Bay Development Corporation (G.R. 133250), seven Justices of the Supreme Court voted to deny the second motions for reconsideration filed by the Public Estates Authority (PEA) and Central Bay Reclamation and Development Corporation (formerly, Amari Coastal Bay Development Corporation) (Amari), while seven Justices voted to grant the motions for reconsideration. With the seven-seven vote, the second motions for reconsideration were denied and the Amended Joint Venture Agreement between PEA and Amari was nullified.*

While Management is currently exploring its available legal remedies, it continues to struggle to find wisdom in a Resolution concurred in by seven Justices that base its nullification of the Amended Joint Venture Agreement on a Senate Committee Report finding a supposed undervaluation of the land values and alleged commissions paid to brokers suspected of paying off certain PEA officials. It is disheartening that:

- The acceptance of the Senate findings by the seven Justices violates the basic right to due process and to be presumed innocent. No part of the Senate findings has been proven in a court of law.

- The Senate Report was made in aid of legislation, not to establish the guilt or innocence of a party, and was made without strict adherence to the rules of evidence and other constitutional rights afforded those charged of a crime before a court of justice.

- The guilt or innocence of the parties named in the Senate Report is still being tried in the lower courts, and yet a prejudgment of guilt was already rendered by no less than the highest court of the land even before trial is over, in utter disregard of legal doctrines and precedents.

- The Senate Report was made on the *original Joint Venture Agreement, not the Amended Joint Venture Agreement which was precisely amended to address concerns raised in the Senate Report.*

- The counterpart House Report which, unlike the Senate Report, upheld the validity of the original Joint Venture Agreement was not even considered in the Resolution, even though the House of Representatives is a co-equal body of the Senate.

- No iota of legal significance was given the act of the Executive Department, a co-equal body in our system of laws, when the approval of former President Ramos on the original Joint Venture Agreement, and the approval of former President Estrada on the Amended Joint Venture Agreement, the signing of which was even witnessed by respected members of the Congress, Senate and the Cabinet, were ignored.

- The seven Justices even resorted to political sloganeering when they overzealously declared the project as "the grandmother of all scams".

It is equally disheartening that the present case would have been the FIRST TIME the Supreme Court ruled that ALL RECLAIMED LANDS ARE LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, and yet it chose to apply this ruling retroactively to all previous reclamation projects.

- Does it mean now that all other similar reclamation projects where private corporations were paid with or otherwise own reclaimed land will be nullified as well?

- Does it mean now that investors who have put in their hard earned money in full reliance upon the approvals of government will just have to suffer the loss of their investment, blaming only themselves for having trusted their government?

All along the way, new issues were continually being thrown against the Amended Joint Venture Agreement, without adequately affording PEA nor Amari their proper day in court.

- The Petition merely sought information on the negotiations between PEA and Amari on the Amended Joint Venture Agreement, but the Supreme Court ended up declaring the Amended Joint Venture Agreement as being unconstitutional.

- When PEA and Amari were constrained to belatedly discuss the issues on constitutionality in their respective motions for reconsideration, the new issues posed by the Senate Committee Report were again raised for the first time by these seven Justices against PEA and Amari.

While it is fortunate that a vote of the seven Justices of the Supreme Court does not establish judicial doctrine, and merely expresses an opinion on the judicial efficacy of Senate findings, it is unfortunate that the Decision of nullity is left to stand, oblivious to the importune of the numerous shareholders of our Company, as well as various business interests, all of whom had relied in good faith on the Word of the Executive.

We can only hope for the best as we pursue all available means to protect and preserve the interests of our Company and its shareholders.

CYBER BAY CORPORATION

ADVT.

SBMA opens 3rd Japanese science park

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) officials inaugurated here recently the third Japanese Industrial Park that is expected to attract foreign direct investments and accommodate the growing multi-national business community here.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo led the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the P54-million Boton Light and Science Park, which was expected to pave the way for the setting up of new manufacturing plants.

"Many foreign investors, particularly the Japanese, believe that Subic freeport is still the best place to set up business as it offers not just a factory site but a total community with secured and pristine environment and more importantly, the availability of highly skilled and dedicated workers," Payumo said.

Payumo also signed the long-term lease contract with Japan Medical Imaging Inc. (JMI), represented by its president Hidenori Mukai.

JMI is the first Japanese firm to set up a manufacturing plant at the Boton Light and Science Park. JMI is a world-class supplier and manufacturer of used medical imaging equipment such as CT scan, mammography, x-ray and ultrasound machines.

These medical equipment are sourced from the United States, Japan and Korea for refurbishing and quality control testing at the company's technical centers before these are shipped to its clients.

Ichiro Tsuji, president of the Subic Techno Park, and Virginia Limcuando, Boton Light and Science Park director, said six more Japanese firms have made reservations to set up business here. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cousins string profit from beads

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

PATERNAL cousins Mae A. Amora and Beth A. Mathay have always been fond of crafts but it was not until 2001 that they thought of making a business out of their hobby.

It was at that time when Mae resigned from her position as one of the top officials of a multinational bank and Beth was left with time on her hands after leaving the world of politics in Quezon City.

Mae said, "It was the right time. We were in a similar situation. We initially thought of putting up a food venture. However creating pieces from beads was already Beth's hobby at the time and we became interested in it instead."

They started their business with minimum capital.

"We knew we had a good product. We were selling to friends and they were very interested in what we were creating. Our friends kept on asking us to create more finished pieces," Beth added.

Like other budding entrepreneurs, they started out by making pieces out of materials found in Divisoria and Quiapo, but as they became more adept at their work they went to Cebu, Hong Kong and then to other places to make their creations different from the others.

But Mae and Beth thought that no matter how many pieces they put out in the market, customers would always have a specific design in mind.

Thus, they decided to sell raw materials for bead-making along with finished pieces that they created themselves.

"About 2/3 of our products are loose beads and all the components that go into making beads. We wanted to cater to hobbyists and customers who want one-of-a-kind pieces. They walk away from our store knowing that they had a hand in the design. With us, our customers can explore their creative spirit," Beth said.

The cousins joined various bazaars. Their first break came when they were accepted as a concessionaire at the Karl Edward Bazaars, which are held at Fort Bonifacio.

Soon after, they were accepted by the Ayala Malls to be part of their cart program at the Glorietta and Greenbelt.

Mae said sales were encouraging two years ago even if beads were not as popular as they are today.

"We were able to get back our initial capitalization in three months. And we had so much fun doing our work. We said, this is it, this is our business," Mae said.

The cousins envisioned "Beads and Beyond" to be unique, to set itself apart from competition. This is seen not just in the variety of its raw materials but also in the way it services its customers.

(FROM left) Mae A. Amora and Beth A. Mathay make beautiful accesories together.

"Some of our customers come to the store with their old beads and ask us to make some new designs out of them. We were able to nurture a relationship with our customers," Beth said.

Mae and Beth realized that the repeat business reflected their clients' delight in their workmanship, designs and creativity.

Beads And Beyond calls Alabang Town Center its new home. The store is located at the 2nd level New Expansion Wing, Madrigal Entrance.

"Mae and I are optimistic. The possibilities in bead designing are endless. It's not a fad. Women have always been fascinated with beads since the start of civilization. Beads are here to stay," Beth said.

RP's first industrial kaolin, silica processing plant opens in Naga

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—A local investor and an American engineer have put up the country's first processing plant for international standard industrial kaolin and silica.

Kaolin and silica are two of a number of minerals found in a certain kind of clay that include diatomaceous earth, pentonite and zeolite.

These minerals are used to make ceramics, molds, oil drilling casings, paints, filters, paper, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products.

William Enrile, accountant, lawyer and a local investor, made the investment in the production of industrial kaolin and silica after his partner, August Lehman, an industrial engineer, convinced him that there was an unlimited demand for the processed minerals in the world market.

Large deposits

Lehman claimed that the deposits of white clay in the towns of Tinambac and Siruma in Camarines Sur could last more than a century even if the plant would reach the maximum production of 100 tons a day.

He said the kaolin and silica deposits in the province are among the the largest in the world.

Kaolin is used in making environment friendly pesticides in the US because it has a quality akin to microscopic razors that damage the tissues of pests, he said.

The Philippines currently imports industrial kaolin and silica from the United States, the world's biggest exporter of these minerals.

Initial operations

The industrial kaolin and silica produced here in the last two weeks were directly sold to US-based American Standard Phil., maker of porcelain wares such as toilet bowls.

The initial operation of the white clay processing plant called "First Beneficiation Plant" has reached the minimum production target of 10 tons a day.

For the past several months, the plant had been undergoing trial production of industrial kaolin and silica and sent the finished products to prospective clients.

But the products it produced in "cakes" did not pass the quality standard of most US-based companies save for American Standard.

Before the successful operation and production here of international standard industrial kaolin and silica, Enrile said no company has ventured successfully into the operation of a white clay processing plant.

One major stumbling block, he explained, was the lack of technology to pass international product standards.

The quality standards of materials and finished products are adopted by groups like the American Society of Engineers and American Society of Testing and Manufacturing, the largest industry standards' group in the world.

However, with Lehman at the helm of developing appropriate systems of the plant, putting up a custom-built processing facility became possible.

Environment friendly

He claimed that the systems of the processing plant are environmentally friendly. He said the plant only uses organic compounds in processing the white clay.

The plant, he added, produces no waste because the byproducts are recycled.

The pioneering tandem did not need to import all the machines and accessories of the plant.

Only the central machine called the hydrocyclone, which separates the allied minerals into individual minerals, was imported from the US.

The rest of the plant's machines, gadgets and accessories were fabricated locally.

Enrile said he has applied with the Bureau of Investments for incentives under the import substitution scheme.

He said the plant would greatly benefit from the incentives given to pioneering industries such as tax holidays.

X-TRAIL

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*for October 2003, based on CAMPI figures. Nissan X-TRAIL 2.0-liter 4x2 P1,059,000 / 2.0-liter 4x4 P 1,105,000 / 2.5-liter 4x4 P1,270,000 • Accessories available as dealer option • Now available in Black-X • Model shown may differ from actual unit.

Banks to outsource some functions in '04

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANKS are looking at outsourcing part of their backroom operations to reduce cost and improve efficiency.

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said that if done right, the outsourcing of certain operations could lead to a significant improvement in the banks' customer service.

Coronel said the BAP, which is composed of the country's commercial banks, would study what operations the banks could outsource to a third party so that the banks could concentrate on their core businesses.

Coronel said some of the banking operations that could be easily outsourced include administrative functions or check processing.

The Philippines has emerged as a major hub for business process outsourcing.

A number of large companies such as Caltex and Procter and Gamble have set up units in the country to take care of the companies' regional or global operations in such areas as customer service, accounting, human resources and procurement.

Outsourcing would be among the BAP's priorities for next year, Coronel said.

Other major projects for 2004 would be the operation of the country's first fixed income exchange, creation of a positive information credit bureau and the establishment of a cash center.

BAP officials said that trading on the fixed income exchange should start by the second quarter of next year, giving the public a new investment outlet.

The fixed income exchange would also improve liquidity and ensure price transparency in the financial system.

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Mitsubishi to launch new SUVs in fun camp

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines will officially introduce its new sport utility vehicles, the new Mitsubishi Outlander and all-new Mitsubishi Pajero on its 2-day family fun event Mitsubishi Fun Camp. The Mitsubishi Fun Camp will happen on Nov. 22 and 23 at the open field of the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The Mitsubishi Fun Camp will host a lot of activities not only for car enthusiasts but for the whole family as well. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines' senior manager for marketing services Froilan Dytianquin said, "It's something that the whole family can look forward to because this will be the first-ever family oriented outdoor motorshow". Mitsubishi Motors Philippines was also a pioneer in setting up the Mitsubishi Motorworld in 1997, which was an exclusive motorshow event that gathered Mitsubishi's premium vehicles that wowed the motoring public. "We expect that the Mitsubishi Fun Camp will again gain interest from the public as we prepared many attractions that will surely be enjoyed not only by the adults but kids as well", added Dytianquin.

The Mitsubishi Fun Camp will feature an exclusive Mitsubishi motorshow, which showcases the new Outlander, all new Pajero, and the Lancer Evolution 8. A sneak preview of upcoming models and accessorized version of MMPC's current models will also be presented in the Motorshow Camp. As a main attraction in the Camp, MMPC brought in the Sports Utility Pack Cabriolet concept car which was featured at the 35th Tokyo Motorshow.

The SUP Cabriolet targets active technophiles with waterproof upholstery, semi-transparent door panel totes, seatback-mounted backpacks, and even a freshwater shower. This distinct all-wheel drive (AWD) vehicle is powered by an environmentally hybrid powertrain utilizing an efficient gasoline direct injection (GDI) engine and an integrated starter and alternator (ISA) motor that powers the front wheels. In addition, two electric motors power the rear wheels on demand.

The Motorshow Camp will also feature classic Mitsubishi cars, as MMPC invites owners of well-maintained classic Mitsubishi Lancer and Galant models from the '70s to the '90s to show their cars in the Mitsubishi Classic Concourse.

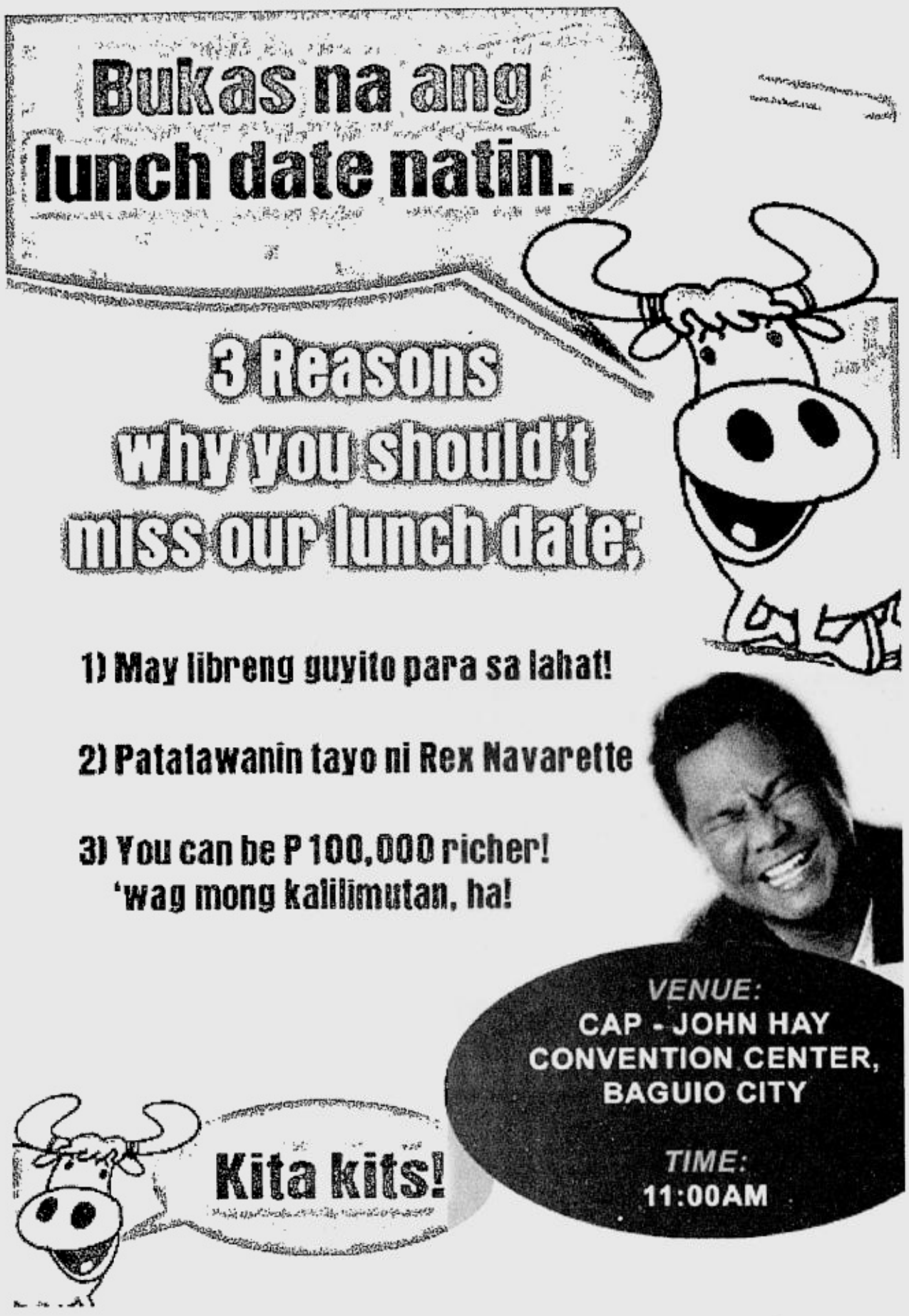
The Mitsubishi Fun Camp also has a Test Drive Camp, which will allow customers to test drive the Outlander and new Pajero and other Mitsubishi models as well. Representatives of MMPC and its dealers such as Citimotors, Diamond Motors and Union Motors will assist those who will test drive these new models.

The Mitsubishi Fun Camp will also house a Youth Camp, which was primarily incorporated for kids' recreation. Parents need not worry about bringing their toddlers, since they will surely have fun at this camp. This Youth Camp features an inflatable kiddie park, arcade games, and educational entertainment shows. In addition, they may enjoy watching at the Mitsubishi Amphitheater and experience the sound and sights of a rally race competition, or better yet, get exhilarated with the Lancer Evo 8 Simulator and try to outrace the computer in different levels of racing competition.

For those who want to purchase Mitsubishi Genuine parts and accessories or Ralliart apparel and accessories, then there is the Parts and Apparel Camp, which will merchandise these items at special marked down prices.

Finally, various choices for food and refreshments will also be available at reasonable prices at the Food Camp for those who will get exhausted and hungry as they wander in the Fun Camp.

The Mitsubishi Fun Camp will be open from 9 a.m to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Nov. 23.



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HANDSHAKES AGAINST DIABETES

Operation Diabetes signed a memorandum of agreement with the Leaders for Health Foundation Inc (LHFI) Aug. 25 to train public doctors on appropriate diabetes prevention and management. Operation Diabetes is represented by Herbcare Corp, maker of Charantia Ampalaya Food Supplement and the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhop). Shown, from left, are Dr. Guia G. Abad, Amhop president, Dr. Ethelyn P. Nieto, Department of Health director-Center for Health Development III, Herbcare president Lito Abelarde and Dr. Enrique A. Tayag, LHFI president.

Clips

Ron Kaufman to speak on service excellence

WORLD-renowned customer service innovator Ron Kaufman will share his expertise on customer partnerships and quality service in a seminar titled, "Secrets of Superior Service" on Nov. 24 at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City. The seminar, already on its fourth run, will offer a unique approach to service management that will not only meet clients' expectations but exceed them as well. The seminar is presented by strategic marketing and communications firm TeamAsia. For inquiries, call at 757-3500.

13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

UNITED Laboratories, the leading pharmaceutical company in the country, in partnership with the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and its initiator, the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (Stamp) will once again demonstrate its commitment to the excellence of local medical and health care professionals by staging the 13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award. The award is given annually to an outstanding Filipino physician whose life and work embody the ideals of our National Hero. The presentation ceremony will be held on Nov. 29, at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City.

Noel Bazaars

THE NOEL Bazaar Series boasts of the most enviable line-up of products. If you feel you have what it takes and the products to wow the crowd of Manila Polo Club on Nov. 29 and 30; and the World trade Center on Nov. 21 to 23, call Cut Unlimited Inc at 687-0654, 687-7523 and telefax 687-0604.

ProductFILES

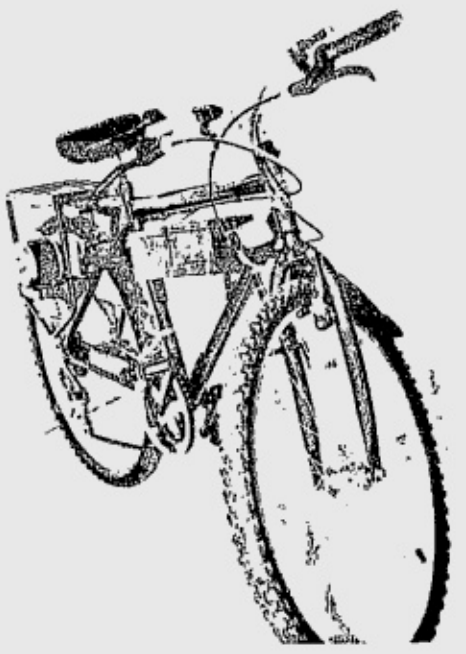
Environment-friendly 'E-Bikes' hit RP

ELECTRONIC Bikes, or "E-Bikes", a hybrid bicycle equipped with a battery-powered electric motor, hits the Philippine market this month to revolutionize the ordinary cycling experience. Economical, safe and environment-friendly, the Tronix E-bike offers point-to-point transportation the futuristic way.

The Tronix E-bike was conceptualized by Ramon Castillo in November last year, after seeing the success of E-bikes in countries abroad. E-bikes represent the beginning of an electric transportation system that can revolutionize people transport because it has the benefits of clean, quiet, electric power, plus world-class design and engineering. With an E-bike, you can virtually cruise along short distances in no time up to a maximum speed of 30 kph.

The Tronix E-bike is designed to be virtually maintenance-free. It requires no gasoline or oil, and is "fueled" by two 12-V DC, 12 ampere-hour, sealed lead-acid batteries. The steel alloy mountain bike frameset only weighs a total of 32 kg. Gears include standard bike sprockets and freewheels, plus a belt drive for motors and cantilever brakes.

See this machine for yourself at its Quezon City Circle Demo Run on Nov. 23, at the DOST-Tapi Inventors' Week Exhibit at the PTTC in Pasay City from Nov. 26 to 30, at the SM City Manila mall tour from Dec. 10 to 16, and at the Marikina City Annual Bike Festival on Dec. 14. For inquiries, call 645-1592 or 645-1903.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

NORTH LUZON AND SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAYS APPROVED TOLL RATE INCREASE

Notice is hereby given that in the Matter of Petition for Review of the Toll Rate Adjustment Granted by the Toll Regulatory Board to the Philippine National Construction Corporation for the North (Balintawak to Sta. Ines) and South (Alabang to Calamba) Luzon Expressways filed by the Southern Luzon Bus Operators' Association and Federation of Concerned Organization of Balut, as Petitioners, versus, the Philippine National Construction Corporation, as Respondent, the Toll Regulatory Board, after lengthy public hearings conducted for the purpose, has determined and decided that:

> **"WHEREFORE, the 29% adjustment in toll rates using the Return on Rate Base (RORB) Formula that was approved by the Board for the North Luzon and South Luzon Expressways, rounded off to the nearest peso, are hereby declared reasonable and the Instant Petitions are hereby DISMISSED."**

The following rates will therefore be implemented starting **01 December 2003** after publishing the same once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

A. SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	2.00	1.00								
San Pedro	2.00	2.00	1.00							
Southwoods	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00						
Carmona	4.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	1.00				
Sta. Rosa	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.00			
ABI/Greenfield	7.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Cabuyao	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	
Silangan	8.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
Calamba	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	3.00	2.00								
San Pedro	4.00	3.00	1.00							
Southwoods	7.00	6.00	4.00	3.00						
Carmona	8.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	10.00	9.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	2.00				
Sta. Rosa	11.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	4.00	3.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	13.00	13.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
Cabuyao	15.00	14.00	12.00	11.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	1.00	
Silangan	16.00	15.00	13.00	12.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
Calamba	19.00	18.00	16.00	15.00	12.00	11.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	5.00	4.00								
San Pedro	6.00	5.00	2.00							
Southwoods	10.00	9.00	5.00	4.00						
Carmona	12.00	11.00	7.00	5.00	2.00					
Mamplasan	14.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	4.00	3.00				
Sta. Rosa	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	6.00	5.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	20.00	19.00	15.00	14.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	3.00		
Cabuyao	22.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	2.00	
Silangan	24.00	22.00	19.00	17.00	13.00	12.00	9.00	7.00	4.00	1.00
Calamba	29.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	18.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	8.00	6.00

Note: The Metro Manila Skyway System (At-Grade Section from Magallanes to Alabang and the Elevated Section) is excluded in the above toll rate increase.

(PDI – November 16, 21 & 28, 2003)

B. NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	2.00												
Valenzuela	2.00												
Lawang Bato	3.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	4.00	2.00											
St. Francis	4.00	2.00											
Marilao	5.00	3.00	1.00										
Bocaue	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.00									
Balagtas	8.00	6.00	4.00	3.00	2.00								
Guiguinto	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	2.00								
Tabang	9.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	3.00	1.00							
Sta. Rita	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00								
Pulilan	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00		2.00						
San Simon	16.00	14.00	12.00	11.00	10.00		6.00	4.00					
San Fernando	19.00	17.00	15.00	14.00	13.00		9.00	7.00	3.00				
Mexico	21.00	19.00	17.00	16.00	15.00		11.00	9.00	5.00	2.00			
Angeles	24.00	22.00	20.00	19.00	18.00		14.00	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00		
Dau	25.00	23.00	21.00	20.00	19.00		15.00	13.00	9.00	6.00	4.00	1.00	
Sta. Ines	26.00	24.00	23.00	22.00	20.00		17.00	14.00	11.00	8.00	6.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	3.00												
Valenzuela	4.00												
Lawang Bato	6.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	7.00	3.00											
St. Francis	8.00	3.00											
Marilao	9.00	5.00	2.00										
Bocaue	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00									
Balagtas	15.00	11.00	8.00	6.00	3.00								
Guiguinto	17.00	13.00	9.00	7.00	5.00								
Tabang	18.00	14.00	11.00	9.00	6.00	2.00							
Sta. Rita	19.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	7.00								
Pulilan	24.00	20.00	17.00	15.00	12.00		5.00						
San Simon	32.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	20.00		12.00	8.00					
San Fernando	37.00	33.00	30.00	28.00	25.00		18.00	13.00	6.00				
Mexico	42.00	38.00	34.00	32.00	30.00		22.00	18.00	10.00	4.00			
Angeles	48.00	43.00	40.00	38.00	36.00		28.00	24.00	16.00	10.00	6.00		
Dau	49.00	45.00	42.00	40.00	37.00		30.00	25.00	18.00	12.00	7.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	53.00	49.00	46.00	43.00	41.00		33.00	29.00	21.00	15.00	11.00	5.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	5.00												
Valenzuela	6.00												
Lawang Bato	8.00	2.00											
Meycauayan	11.00	5.00											
St. Francis	11.00	5.00											
Marilao	14.00	8.00	3.00										
Bocaue	18.00	12.00	7.00	4.00									
Balagtas	23.00	17.00	12.00	9.00	5.00								
Guiguinto	25.00	19.00	14.00	11.00	7.00								
Tabang	28.00	21.00	17.00	13.00	10.00	3.00							
Sta. Rita	29.00	23.00	18.00	15.00	11.00								
Pulilan	36.00	30.00	25.00	22.00	18.00		7.00						
San Simon	47.00	41.00	37.00	33.00	29.00		18.00	11.00					
San Fernando	56.00	50.00	45.00	42.00	38.00		27.00	20.00	9.00				
Mexico	62.00	56.00	52.00	48.00	45.00		33.00	27.00	15.00	6.00			
Angeles	71.00	65.00	61.00	57.00	53.00		42.00	35.00	24.00	15.00	9.00		
Dau	74.00	68.00	63.00	60.00	56.00		45.00	38.00	26.00	18.00	11.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	79.00	73.00	68.00	65.00	61.00		50.00	43.00	32.00	23.00	17.00	8.00	5.00

SO ORDERED.

By Authority of the Board
(Sgd.) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

November 21, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under the JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987).
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following packages:

   Package 7: RBN-10-010-0061
   Municipality of San Agustin:
   Repair of Six (6) Classrooms School Building at San Agustin In CS and
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Cabulutan ES
   Package 8: RBN-10-011-0062
   Municipality of San Agustin:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Sugod ES and
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Long Beach ES
   Package 9: RBN-05-003-0063
   Municipality of Corcuera:
   Repair of Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Corcuera CS and
   Repair of Two (2) Classrooms School Building at Tacasan ES.
   Package 10: RBN-05-004-0064
   Municipality of Corcuera:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Gobon ES and
   Repair of Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Alegria ES.
   Package 11: RBN-12/03-007/004-0065
   Municipality of San Fernando:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Teresa Barnes ES and Municipality of Cajidiocan.
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Cambalo ES
   Package 12: RBN-13-007-0066
   Municipality of San Jose:
   Repair of Nine (9) Classrooms School Building at San Jose CS
   Package 13: RBN-13-008-0067
   Municipality of San Jose:
   Repair of Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Lanas ES
   Package 14: RBN-10-011-0068
   Municipality of Calatrava:
   Repair of Seven (7) Classrooms School Building at Linao ES and
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Pagsangahan ES
   Package 15: RBN-02-003-0069
   Municipality of Banton:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Banice ES,
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Libtong ES and
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Nasunogan ES.
   Package 16: RBN-07/08-006/004-0070
   Municipality of Odiongan:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Rizal ES and
   Repair of One (1) Classroom School Building at Budiong ES
   Municipality of Ferrol:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Ferrol CS
   Package 17: RBN-08-004-0071
   Municipality of Looc:
   Construction of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Buenavista ES
   Package 18: RBN-09-006-0072
   Municipality of Romblon:
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Lamao ES and
   Repair of Three (3) Classrooms School Building at Tinia ES
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Romblon, Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DPISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) with address at Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon for a non-refundable fee of Php 1,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division office of Romblon, Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon on or before 10:00 AM, January 8, 2004, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) JOSE FREDDIE M. MOCON
Assistant School Division Superintendent
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 21, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Kalinga

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB No. KAL-003SBP-2003

November 21, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders classified by TAC and PCAB at least Small B for General Building and from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987).*
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following proposed Bid Packages:

Package No. KAL–10/07-023	Repair of One Unit-Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Gaogao ES; Construction of One unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Western Tabuk CS; and Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Calaccad ES, all in Municipality of Tabuk, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL– 05-024	Construction of One Unit – Two (2) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Dugpa ES, Brgy. Dugpa in the Municipality of Pinukpuk, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL – 04-025	Construction of One Unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Bagtayan ES; Repair of One unit – Five (5) Classroom School Building @ Pasil CS; and Repair of One Unit – Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Dangtalan ES, all in the Municipality of Pasil, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL – 01-026	Repair of One unit – Two (2) Classrooms School Building @ Gawaan ES; Repair of One unit – Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Poswoy ES; and Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Mabaca ES, all in the Municipality of Balbalan, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL – 08-027	Repair of One unit – One (1) Classroom School Building @ Allubaggan ES; Repair of One unit-Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Tanudan CS; Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Baclayan ES; Repair of One unit – Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Ammaboy ES; and Construction of One unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Gaang ES all in the Municipality of Tanudan, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL – 02/09-028	Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Bangad ES; Repair of One unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Mallango ES all in the Municipality of Tinglayan; and Repair of One unit-Four (4) Classroom School Building @ Lubuagan CS in Municipality of Lubuagan, Kalinga.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP DPISU Office with address at DepEd, Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) for each set. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the same address on December 8, 2003 at 9:00 A.M. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, TEEP DPISU Office, Department of Education-Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga on or before 2:00 P.M. of December 21, 2003 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) EDMUND P. COMAAD, ED.D.
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(PDI–Nov. 21, 2003)

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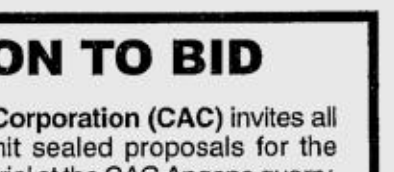

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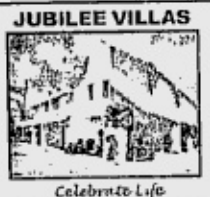

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELADIO SANTIAGO & BONIFACIA BUENAVENTURA was extra judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 318 Page No. 73 Bk. No. 120 Series of 2003 before Notary Public FELIPE G. ANTONIO of Paranaque.
(PDI - Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
LANDS MANAGEMENT BUREAU
Plaza Cervantes, Binondo, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The DENR Lands Management Bureau (DENR-LMB) with office address at Plaza Cervantes, Binondo, Manila invites interested bidders to submit sealed bids to lease on a long term basis Lot 1-C, Block 1862, Cad 12, a national government property located at the corner of Numancia and Urbiztondo Streets, Binondo, Manila containing a total area of 21,727 sq. meters ("the Property").

The Property is classified as commercial land with SEVENTY SEVEN (77) two-storey commercial type buildings fully occupied. It is few blocks away from Divisoria area and two blocks away from the LMB building and inside the central business district of Chinatown.

Bidding documents and terms of reference may be obtained by interested parties starting November 11, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) at the office of the Cashier, Lands Management Bureau.

A pre-bid conference will be held on December 16, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the Conference Room, Office of the Director, Lands Management Bureau to thresh out relevant issues.

Deadline for submission of bids is on or before January 8, 2004 at 2:00 PM. Bids shall be submitted at the Conference Room, Office of the LMB Director. Late bids shall not be accepted.

THE PROPERTY IS THE SUBJECT OF A PETITION FOR INJUNCTION FILED BY PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB) AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES BEFORE THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF PASAY CITY, BRANCH 118, DOCKETED AS CIVIL CASE NO. 03-0368-CFM, AND A PETITION FOR CERTIORARI FILED BY PNB AGAINST THE RTC JUDGE OF PASAY CITY, BRANCH 118 AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEALS, ELEVENTH DIVISION, DOCKETED AS CA-G.R. SP NO. 78980.

The DENR-LMB reserves the right to reject any and all letters of intent or bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, or to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract, to waive any required formality in the bids received or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government, without giving any reason therefor and incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by applicable laws, rules and regulations and the DENR-LMB does not assume any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any party for any expense that may be incurred in the preparation of a bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Recommendation to award by the Bids and Awards Committee is subject to the final approval by the DENR Secretary.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 7, 14 & 21, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH I
SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

CIVIL CASE NO. 8720

CARWORLD INC.,
Plaintiff/s,
– versus –
PASCUAL GO,
Defendant/s.

– for –
SUM OF MONEY

x - - - - - - - - - - - - **S-U-M-M-O-N-S** - - - - - - - - - - - - x

TO:

PASCUAL GO – 184-186 Mapan Road
Valenzuela, Metro Manila

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Municipal Trial Court, Branch I, San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines, not less than sixty (60) days from notice/service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service your answer to the complaint of the plaintiff/s, a copy of which is hereto attached and herewith served upon you and to serve a copy of said answer, within the same period upon the plaintiff/s: If you fail to answer within the time aforesaid, the plaintiff/s will take judgment against you by default and demand from said Court the relief applied for in said judgment.

WITNESS THE HON. MARIA CONCEPCION YUMANG-PANGAN, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 20th day of october 2003 at San Fernando, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. PAGSANJAN**
Clerk of Court I

Respectfully referred to the _____
for immediate service & return.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH I
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

CARWORLD, INC.,
Plaintiff,
– versus –
PASCUAL GO,
Defendant.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - x

CIVIL CASE NO. 8720
– for –
"SUM OF MONEY"

COMPLAINT

The plaintiff, by counsel, to this Honorable Court allege:

1. That the plaintiff is a duly organized corporation with business address at Gapan-Olongapo Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga;

2. That defendant is also of legal age and a resident of 184-186 Mapan Road, Valenzuela, Metro Manila, where he may appropriate served with summons and other legal processes of this Court;

3. That defendant is the registered owner of a vehicle described as follows:

Make & Type	—	Galant VR
Plate No.	—	UBK - 325

4. That on January 26, 2002 defendant referred the said vehicle for repairs to the service station of the plaintiff;

5. That the vehicle was not actually repaired because after the delivery, the defendant never returned for confirmation of the repair services;

6. That since then up to this time defendant failed to redeem said vehicle, incurring an accumulated storage fee of P168,000.00;

7. That despite demands, the said vehicle remains unclaimed and is still in the possession of the plaintiff;

8. That in order to enforce its claim, plaintiff was constrained to litigate spending the sum of P25,000.00, as attorney's fees.

WHEREFORE, premises considered it is prayed that judgment be rendered as follows ordering the defendant to pay:

1) The sum of P168,000.00 as storage fee as of filing of this complaint;
2) The sum of P25,000.00 as attorney's fee;
3) In case of failure to pay the said sum, to sell the vehicle to satisfy the said amount by way of mechanics lien.

Other reliefs and remedies likewise prayed for.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, August 22, 2002.

VIRAY RONGCAL BELTRAN YUMUL LAW OFFICE
Counsel for the plaintiff
R - 201 2nd Floor, St. Anthony Drug II
B. Mendoza St., City of San Fernando (P)
by:

ATLEE T. VIRAY
IBP NO. 546191-1.07.02
PTR NO. 4658135-1.07.02
City of San Fernando (P)

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION

I, EFREN OLALIA, of legal age, UNDER OATH, do hereby depose and state;

1. That I am the Senior Manager/Branch Head of Carworld, Inc., Marilao Branch of the plaintiff in the above-entitled case;

2. That I have caused the preparation of the foregoing complaint;

3. That I have not commenced any other action involving the same issues before the Supreme Court or any other tribunal or agency;

4. That to the best of my knowledge no such action or proceeding is pending before the Supreme Court or any other tribunal or agency;

5. That if I should learn thereafter that a similar action has been filed or is pending before any tribunal, I undertake to report such fact within five (5) days from knowledge to this Honorable Court;

6. That all material allegations contained in the foregoing complaint are true and correct of my own personal knowledge and belief.

IN WITNESS WEHREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this August 22, 2002 at City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) **EFREN D. OLALIA**
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this August 22, 2002 at City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) **ATLEE T. VIRAY**
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 4658137-1/07/02
City of San Fernando (P)

Doc. No. 193:
Page No. 39:
Book No. 73:
Series of 2002:

(PDI – Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

A. BUREAU OF RESIDENT OMBUDSMAN (BRO)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-5-1998; SG-27

Qualification Standards: Education - Bachelor of Laws; Experience - 4 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/ criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

B. FACT-FINDING AND INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (FFIB)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I - Item Nos. GIO1-37-2003; GIO1-38-2003; GIO1-39-2003; GIO1-40-2003; GIO1-41-2003; GIO1-42-2003; GIO1-43-2003; GIO1-44-2003; GIO1-45-2003 and GIO1-46-2003; SG-26 (10 Positions)

Qualification Standards: Education - Bachelor of Laws; Experience - 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training - None required; Eligibility - RA 1080 (BAR)

C. COMMUNITY COORDINATION BUREAU (CCB)

1. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-80-1998; SG-26; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/ criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR); OR Education: Master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 5 years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analysis, counselling, investigation or other related work; Training: 32 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility.
2. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I** - Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-11-1998; SG-15; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR) OR Education Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility.

D. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUCATION AND MONITORING OFFICE (PAMO)

1. **CLERK IV** - Item No. OMBA-CK4-3-1998; SG-8; Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training: Four (4) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/ First Level Eligibility.
2. **CLERK II** - Item No. OMBA-CK2-8-1998; SG-4 Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: Non required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility.

Interested applicants should submit applications "within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication" to the Human Resources Management Division, at the above address the following: 1) an application letter stating the position/item applied for; 2) duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212); 3) 1"x1" picture (colored); 4) BAR Rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; 5) Transcript of Records; 6) Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited); and 7) Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of **Fifty-Two (52) Units Gas Analyzers** for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and its IRR, specifically in the enforcement of the Anti-Smoke Belching Campaign.

The approved budget for the contract to be bid is Fifteen Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P15,600,000.00) from the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program (MMAQISDP) loan of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) now invites sealed quotations from eligible suppliers who are member countries of ADB for the supply of the above item for the purpose of the Project.

Eligibility forms and other documents are available for issuance until the deadline on **21 November 2003, 3:00 P.M.** at the DOTC BAC for the Implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations Office, 16th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. Last day of submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be received not later than **11 December 2003, 10:00 A.M.** Opening of Eligibility documents will follow at **2:00 P.M.** at the BAC Office.

Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of proposal documents starting on **22 December 2003 to 25 January 2004** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above Office and payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) in cash or manager's check payable to DOTC.

Sealed bids shall be received at the BAC Office not later than **20 February 2004, 3:00 P.M.** at the same address. Opening of bid proposals shall be held immediately thereafter at the same office.

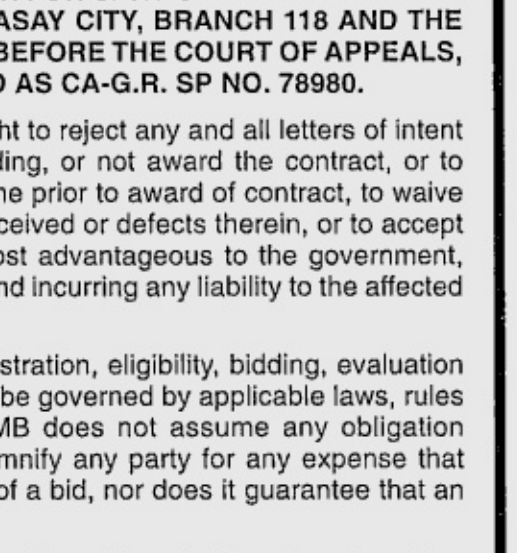
The DOTC-BAC for the Implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer that may be considered most advantageous to the Government.

The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO T. VALDEZ**
Undersecretary for Transportation
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Nov. 20 & 21, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that

JOSE MA. (BONG) SARMIENTO PANLILIO,

whose photo appears above, is NOT in any way connected with FE S. PANLILIO JEWELLERS, with main office address at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines.

Jose Ma. S. (Bong) Panlilio DOES NOT represent Fe S. Panlilio Jewellers in any capacity and does not have an interest in or hold any position in the company.

(PDI–Nov. 21 & 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF :
OPPN FINANCING COMPANY, INC. :
: APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of R.A. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located at 0085 Pioneer Avenue, Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock	P5,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	5,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock	2,640,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position
Pedro P. Panes, Jr.	Chairman/President
Melanie P. Espina	Director/Vice-President
Leonisa P. Rien	Director/Secretary
Newlyn P. Parrera	Director/Treasurer
Christine P. Espina	Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. 8556, the Implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.

November 6, 2003

(Sgd.) **MA. GRACIA F. CASALS**
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI–Nov. 21 & 28, 2003)

B16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2003

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FORTUNE Tobacco Corporation

mourn the death of its

DIRECTOR

ATTY. FLORENCIO TIONGSON SANTOS

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 17, 2003

and extend their deepest sympathy to his family.

We request the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens .... A time to weep, and a time to laugh." (Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 3:4)

JEROME "JV" V. BELEY

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 19, 2003 at the age of 47.

His bereaved parents **Melanio & Angela**; brothers **PV and AV**; sister **Gina**; sisters-in-law **Monette Pastoral** and **Dolor Peralta**; and brother-in-law **Bong Cendaña**; nephews and nieces **Bryan, Niccolo & Jonathan Beley, Cheska & Ivan Beley** and **Trisha, Paolo & Alfonso Cendaña**; cousins, other nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

The funeral Mass will be on Sunday, November 23 at 2:30 p.m. Cremation will immediately follow.

Message of Thanks

The family of

JOSEFA "Pepita" LERMA BANAL

wife of the late **Col. Conrado C. Banal, Sr.**

who peacefully joined her Creator on November 4, 2003 at the age of 97, wishes to thank all those who extended their condolences during the family's deepest hour of sorrow.

We, her bereaved children, grandchildren, in-laws, great grandchildren, & other relatives & friends request the pious readers to join us in celebrating her coming home to the Lord.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am My servant also will follow"

John 13:20

Leticia Gonzales Tenazas

Proprietress of Mutual Employment Services

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 19, 2003 at the age of 77.

Her bereaved children **LULU, JOSE & EDITH, JIMMY & LOUIE, CIRILO & SUSAN**; grandchildren; great grandchildren; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"One thing I ask of the Lord: this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life..."

Psalm 27:4

PAUL DEBUQUE REYES

Peacefully joined the Creator on November 19, 2003 at the age of 34.

He is survived by his wife Nora and daughter Pauline; father Marcelliano; mother Leonida; brothers and sisters Mary Ann and Dotsie, Richard, Michael, Maricel; and nieces Jerica and Jerome.

His remains lie in state at Capilla Aurora B, Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 23, 2003 at the Sto. Rosario Memorial Park, Tikling, Taytay, Rizal after the 2:00 p.m. service.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

Dr. Edelmira Carmen Peregrino Go, MD, MPH

MAI-MAI

18 September 1963 – 1 November 2003
Manila, Philippines – Boston, Massachusetts, USA
International Public Health Physician

Beloved daughter of **Epifanio** and **Ma. Delia (†)**; lifetime partner of **Charles Kirsch**; cherished sister to **Carla, Liza** and **Kevin, Dennis, David, Karen, Farah** and **Joey, Eric, Andrew, Rachel** and **Erwin**; and loving Tita to **Sierra (†), Jopet, Sarah, Nozomi, Gabbie, Trina** and **Julio**.

A day of prayers on 22 November 2003 will precede a Memorial Service on 23 November 2003 at 1:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City.

Contributions in memory of Dr. **Mai-Mai Peregrino Go** can be made to the Ma Delia Peregrino Go Foundation, Inc., Barangay 74 Lower Nula Tula, Tacloban City, 6500, Leyte, Philippines.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

In view of the mandated increase in security service rates, the approved budget for FY 2004 Security Seryices as stated in the Invitation to Bid published on October 13 and 20, 2003 has been correspondingly increased from P7,896,000.00 to P8,308,440.00.

(Sgd.) **LUIS C. LIWANAG II**
Undersecretary and
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI–Nov. 21, 2003)

PAMPANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, BCDA AGREEMENT SIGNING
Pampanga Governor Lito Lapid (left) and BCDA President and CEO Rufo Colayco (right) sign an agreement for the improvement of the P10 million-peso Ayala-Balitucan road in Magalang, Pampanga, which will accelerate the development of infrastructure facilities and delivery of basic services of the local government units surrounding the Clark Special Economic Zone. With them are Magalang Mayor Pastor Guiao (fron row, right) and BCDA employees Jovito Sunga nad Efren de Jesus (standing from left). Witnessing the new partnerhsip are Magalang residents who graced the occasion to show their gratitude to the Pampanga provincial government and BCDA.

Waste and Recycling Expo with Cleantex to be held in PTTC

THE MOST advanced technologies, creative tools, service trends, and best recycled products around the globe are featured at the WASTEX & CLEANTEX EXPO 2004, the biggest and most anticipated waste, recycling, cleaning, sanitation, and pest control show in the country, slated on March 11-13, 2004 at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (head of National Solid Waste Management Commission) together with the Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines and Sen. Loren Legarda endorses the event.

With 2,990 sq.m. of exhibition ground, the organizer expects more than 100 companies to showcase their products and services at the Wastex & Cleanex Expo.

Special exhibit rate will be extended to all NGOs, LGUs, and institutions showcasing recycled products.

For inquiries on the biggest Waste & Recycling Expo back-to-back with Cleaning, Sanitation and Pest Control System & Technology exhibitions, call Edutech Trade & Services Corporation at 651-1749, 451-0946, 0920-2119559, or email at edutech@mla.nsclub.net

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mourn the death of its

DIRECTOR

ATTY. FLORENCIO TIONGSON SANTOS

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 17, 2003

and extend their deepest sympathy to his family.

We request the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens .... A time to weep, and a time to laugh." (Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 3:4)

JEROME "JV" V. BELEY

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 19, 2003 at the age of 47.

His bereaved parents **Melanio & Angela**; brothers **PV** and **AV**; sister **Gina**; sisters-in-law **Monette Pastoral** and **Dolor Peralta**; and brother-in-law **Bong Cendaña**; nephews and nieces **Bryan, Niccolo & Jonathan Beley, Cheska & Ivan Beley** and **Trisha, Paolo & Alfonso Cendaña**; cousins, other nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

The funeral Mass will be on Sunday, November 23 at 2:30 p.m. Cremation will immediately follow.

Message of Thanks

The family of

JOSEFA "Pepita" LERMA BANAL

wife of the late **Col. Conrado C. Banal, Sr.**

who peacefully joined her Creator on November 4, 2003 at the age of 97, wishes to thank all those who extended their condolences during the family's deepest hour of sorrow.

We, her bereaved children, grandchildren, in-laws, great grandchildren, & other relatives & friends request the pious readers to join us in celebrating her coming home to the Lord.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am My servant also will follow"

John 13:20

Leticia Gonzales Tenazas

Proprietress of Mutual Employment Services

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 19, 2003 at the age of 77.

Her bereaved children **LULU, JOSE & EDITH, JIMMY & LOUIE, CIRILO & SUSAN**; grandchildren; great grandchildren; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life"

Psalm 27:4

PAUL DEBUQUE REYES

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 19, 2003 at the age of 34.

He is survived by his wife Nora and daughter Pauline; father Marcelliano; mother Leonida; brothers and sisters Mary Ann and Dotsie, Richard, Michael, Maricel; and nieces Jerica and Jerome

His remains lie in state at Capilla Aurora B, Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City

Interment will be on Sunday, November 23, 2003 at the Sto. Rosario Memorial Park, Tikling, Taytay, Rizal after the 2:00 p.m. service.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

Dr. Edelmira Carmen Peregrino Go, MD, MPH

MAI-MAI

18 September 1963 – 1 November 2003
Manila, Philippines – Boston, Massachusetts, USA
International Public Health Physician

Beloved daughter of **Epifanio** and **Ma. Delia (†)**; lifetime partner of **Charles Kirsch**; cherished sister to **Carla, Liza** and **Kevin, Dennis, David, Karen, Farah** and **Joey, Eric, Andrew, Rachel** and **Erwin**; and loving Tita to **Sierra (†), Jopet, Sarah, Nozomi, Gabbie, Trina** and **Julio.**

A day of prayers on 22 November 2003 will precede a Memorial Service on 23 November 2003 at 1:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City.

Contributions in memory of Dr. **Mai-Mai Peregrino Go** can be made to the Ma Delia Peregrino Go Foundation, Inc., Barangay 74 Lower Nula Tula, Tacloban City, 6500, Leyte, Philippines.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

In view of the mandated increase in security service rates, the approved budget for FY 2004 Security Seryices as stated in the Invitation to Bid published on October 13 and 20, 2003 has been correspondingly increased from P7,896,000.00 to P8,308,440.00.

(Sgd.) **LUIS C. LIWANAG II**
Undersecretary and
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI–Nov. 21, 2003)

PAMPANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, BCDA AGREEMENT SIGNING
Pampanga Governor Lito Lapid (left) and BCDA President and CEO Rufo Colayco (right) sign an agreement for the improvement of the P10 million-peso Ayala-Balitucan road in Magalang, Pampanga, which will accelerate the development of infrastructure facilities and delivery of basic services of the local government units surrounding the Clark Special Economic Zone. With them are Magalang Mayor Pastor Guiao (fron row, right) and BCDA employees Jovito Sunga nad Efren de Jesus (standing from left). Witnessing the new partnerhsip are Magalang residents who graced the occasion to show their gratitude to the Pampanga provincial government and BCDA.

Waste and Recycling Expo with Cleantex to be held in PTTC

THE MOST advanced technologies, creative tools, service trends, and best recycled products around the globe are featured at the WASTEX & CLEANTEX EXPO 2004, the biggest and most anticipated waste, recycling, cleaning, sanitation, and pest control show in the country, slated on March 11-13, 2004 at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (head of National Solid Waste Management Commission) together with the Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines and Sen. Loren Legarda endorses the event.

With 2,990 sq.m. of exhibition ground, the organizer expects more than 100 companies to showcase their products and services at the Wastex & Cleanex Expo.

Special exhibit rate will be extended to all NGOs, LGUs, and institutions showcasing recycled products.

For inquiries on the biggest Waste & Recycling Expo back-to-back with Cleaning, Sanitation and Pest Control System & Technology exhibitions, call Edutech Trade & Services Corporation at 651-1749, 451-0946, 0920-2119559, or email at edutech@mla.nsclub.net

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Autumn comes. It always does.
Goodbye comes. It always does ...
And so I begin my fallow vigil,
Remembering the truth of the ages;
Unless the wheat seed dies
It cannot sing a new birth.
Unless summer gives in to autumn
Springtime will never embrace me.

(Author unknown)

The family of the late

TAN CHUA KING HA

thanks you, our friends,
for your generous gestures of
kindness
and care in our time of
sorrow.

Her bereaved and devoted children and spouses,

Lucio** and **Carmen
Sencio** and **Lay Ming
Mariano** and **Aleta
Harry** and **Cindy
Frank** and **Winnie
Shirley** and **Domingo
Sally** and **Chi Ming

BUSINESS

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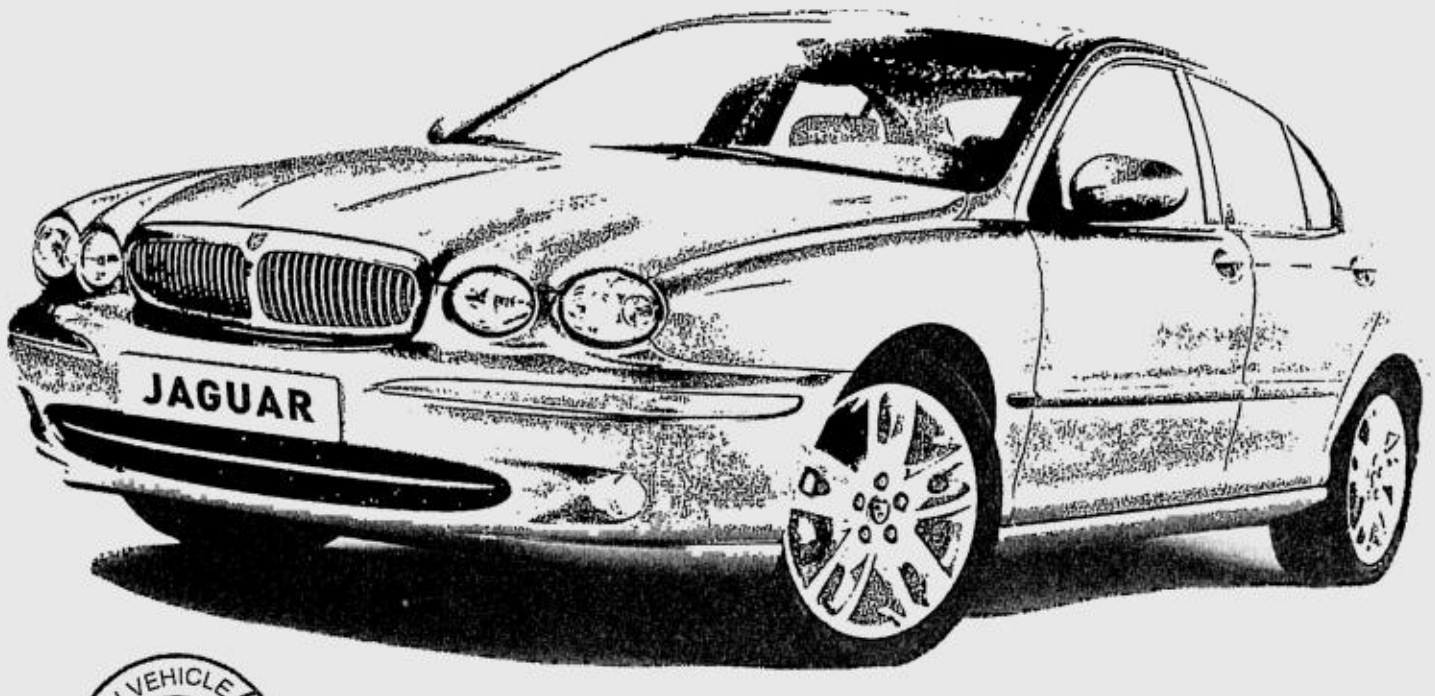

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JAGUAR
Born to perform

DoF bars LBP from managing Marcos funds

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro L. Camacho has rejected the proposal of the Land Bank of the Philippines to manage the $683 million in Swiss deposits recovered from the Marcos family.

Camacho said the Bureau of Treasury was in a better position to handle the recovered Marcos deposits as it handles other huge funds such as the modernization budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The government stands to receive some P38 billion after the Supreme Court declared with finality that the funds deposited in Swiss accounts were ill-gotten, thus, forfeited in favor of the government.

Camacho said that once the Marcos funds are transmitted to the government coffers, it would substantially reduce the government's ballooning budget deficit.

The government has counted P14 billion out of the P38 billion in Swiss deposits as part of its expected revenue this year.

The funds would be used to bankroll the agrarian reform program.

Camacho said the balance of the recovered ill-gotten wealth would be spread out in succeeding years to avoid a distortion in the budget.

"We will not recognize the whole amount as it would have the effect of overstating first year revenues but in the succeeding years, there would be less expenses and less revenues. So we would just match the revenue recognition with actual expenditure on agrarian reform," Camacho said.

LandBank president Margarito Teves, on the other hand, said the bank could manage the Swiss account since it advances the funding for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The LBP estimated that it would require as much as P360 billion to complete the CARP.

RP sugar production rises to 10-year high

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S sugar production has risen to a 10-year high of 2.27 million metric tons as more farmers planted better-quality seeds, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority.

SRA Administrator James Ledesma said at least 4 percent of the production or about 80,000 metric tons would be sold at the Chicago Board of Trade in January as the production was more than enough to cover the domestic requirement of 1.9 million MT.

This is on top of the country's export of 135,000 to 140,000 MT to the United States.

Ledesma said in an interview that production for the current crop year, which runs from Sept. 2003 to Oct. 2004, would also exceed the domestic requirement at 2.2 million MT.

He, however, stressed that the government might still import sugar as buffer stock.

The Philippines earlier committed to import a third of its sugar minimum access volume (MAV) requirement from Thailand.

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Spain to fund solar project

THE SPANISH government is set to invest some P3.37 billion in a solar electrification project that would light up 40 remote communities in Mindanao.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan said in a statement that the Spanish government's Solar Power Technology Support (Spots) project would directly benefit some 20,000 farmers from 15 provinces in Mindanao.

Pagdanganan said BP Solar España, the world's biggest solar plant manufacturer, was contracted to provide technical services for the Spots project.

The solar power project covers Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay, Misamis Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Compostella Valley, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. *Christine A. Gaylican*

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

How RP's first commercial television station was born

By Charlie A. Agatep
Contributor

GETTING started in broadcasting. Agatep was the first program director of dzAQ-TV Channel 3.

THIS will come as a surprise to my colleagues in the PR industry and the media.

Fifty years ago, on Sept. 21, 1953, the late Vero Perfecto and I hosted the first local TV broadcast over DZAQ-TV Channel 3 (AQ for Antonio Quirino), the first commercial television station in the Philippines.

We aired our maiden broadcast from the sprawling mansion of the late Judge Antonio Quirino on Guevarra Street, San Juan, where a garden party was in progress. We had no program scripts, no studied preparations or whatsoever. Vero and I just agreed to do spontaneous acts together and hoped our errors and fluffs would be few and far between.

AS it turned out, it was not so bad. Sure, we had many wrong cues but Vero was a master of improvisation and somehow, I managed to ride along.

Using only one black and white orthicon camera mounted on a tripod, our TV technician panned the camera from left to right all evening to show more than 300 socialite guests.

Without a floor director to give us signals, our cameraman would pan back to Vero and me as we made one liner jokes alá Bob Hope. We were quite hilarious.

It was a soft opening without any fanfare. There was no press conference or special program with dancing girls to mark the first official telecast the way new product launchings are done today.

WE had ten national advertisers to sponsor the show even though there must have been only 200 black and white TV sets throughout the Philippines at that time.

We capped the evening's program with a children's show and some classical kundiman songs rendered by a popular soprano whose name I cannot remember.

We signed off at around 9:30 p.m. after inviting the guests and televiewers to "tune in again at 6 p.m. tomorrow for that classic movie, "The Count of Montecristo."

I was afraid Judge Quirino would end the telecast with an appeal to reelect his brother, then president Elpidio Quirino, but to his credit, he did not do so.

In the next six months after that initial TV broadcast, the job of sustaining a four-hour daily program from 6 pm to 10pm was absolutely chaotic.

Unlike today when you could import a Meteor Garden or a Thalia telenovela , television was not that advanced even in the United States.

It was not until years later that companies like Desilu, the organization owned by Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, concentrated on the creation and production of syndicated film shows like "I love Lucy" or "The Californians."

In the mornings, I would call on the foreign embassies, oil companies, academic institutions and film distributors to borrow 16mm black and white films and schedule these for the day's programming.

Many of the films were cartoons like Popeye the Sailor, Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck. Sometimes, I would schedule employee relations films like "Telephone Etiquette" or "How to Deal with Subordinates." Occasionally, I would be lucky to

HOW/ B2-3

Ice cream firm cashes in on Filipino export mart

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS overseas always long for a piece of the home they left behind. And they are willing to pay the price for it.

This bodes well for companies such as Selecta Wall's Inc. that count on the large Filipino market to bring up export receipts.

John Concepcion, managing director and chief executive officer of Selecta Wall's, tells the INQUIRER that the company was encouraged to export ice cream when they noticed that many Filipinos bought Selecta ice cream at the airport as presents, even if these were relatively expensive.

It took about two years, however, before Selecta made its first export to the United States in 2001 because the products had to pass through tough quality standards. But when it did, the response was worth the effort.

"The response was beyond expectations, which showed that Selecta is truly a good brand and the Filipinos wanted it. They were willing to buy it at between $6.99 and $7.99 a container compared to Häagen-Dazs for only $4.99," Concepcion says.

SELECTA Wall's eyes world market for frozen novelties.

From the first shipment to Los Angeles, Selecta Wall's quickly followed it up with another shipment to the East Coast. In less than two years, Selecta ice cream can now be found in countries such as Japan, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, China and the United Arab Emirates.

FILIPINOS prefer local ice cream.

"Our targets are areas where there are a lot of Filipinos. That is how we position the Selecta Wall's ice cream," Concepcion says.

The best sellers are tropical fruit flavored ice cream such as ube, mango and macapuno, and Filipino concoctions such as buco salad and halo-halo.

"We are happy to see that there are now other nationalities that enjoy the ice cream, not just the Filipinos, probably because we were able to perfect the process of making ice cream out of tropical fruits. We are not just about chocolate and vanilla," he explains.

He says the continued growth in exports would help increase the income of farmers in the Philippines because Selecta sources most of its ingredients locally, particularly mango and ube, which provide Selecta Wall's with a competitive advantage over other ice cream manufacturers.

CONCEPCION

Selecta Wall's is a joint venture between the RFM Group's Selecta Dairy products Inc. and Unilever, the world leader in the ice cream industry.

ICE CREAM/ B2-2

Provincial newspapers evolve as business turns to regions

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—This city has 12 local newspapers that, on their good days, barely survive a rather parochial business climate. Most of these papers also have to live on the trickle of advertisements that represent the small town businesses of Baguio over the last 50 years.

Carlos Honorio Estepa, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) vice president for North Luzon, said the number of media outfits usually provide business experts a good profile of how robust the local economy performs.

But delegates to the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress will be surprised to discover that for the last few decades, few Baguio businesses have used the community press as a tool to market their products.

"I have been in the media business for decades, but most homegrown businesses never saw the value of marketing their services to local folk by using community newspapers," said Alfred Dizon, publisher of the two-year-old Northern Philippine Times.

His admission is ironic considering how fast Baguio newspapers breed in the face of an indifferent business attitude.

Barely 14 years since the July 1990 earthquake, Baguio has seen new media outfits spin off from veteran weekly staple fare like the 55-year-old Baguio Midland Courier and the defunct activist newspaper, Gold Ore.

Apart from the still-leading Midland Courier, the city now boasts of a 9-year-old daily tabloid, Sun Star Baguio, and 10 weekly newspapers of varying political preferences. Combined, these newspapers generate 40,000 copies that are circulated here, and in key towns of the Cordillera and the Ilocos.

For no more than a P200,000 investment, publishers like Dizon have churned out 10 to 12 pages of news each week, and a page or two of classified advertisements and legal notices.

Each edition, however, costs publishers more than P30,000 in operating costs, printing costs and weekly salaries, Dizon said.

He said homegrown businesses always assume that their particular markets do not cross the city limits.

"I have tried to enlist hotels but they only saw Metro Manila as their market. Shops along Session Road also refuse to consider community advertising because they rely on repeat business from the neighborhood. So why would they need community papers?" he said in Filipino.

This condition had been disastrous for the local newspaper trade. Four of the existing news weeklies are run as "kitchen sink" investments, or enterprises running on no more than P100,000 in capital.

These backdoor publishers rely solely on weekly advertising sales to ensure the printing of a subsequent edition.

"I started out that way. I spent only P20 for my daily meals, and poured all my resources on each week's production. A true publishing budget is P1 million because you need to own your printing machines," Dizon said.

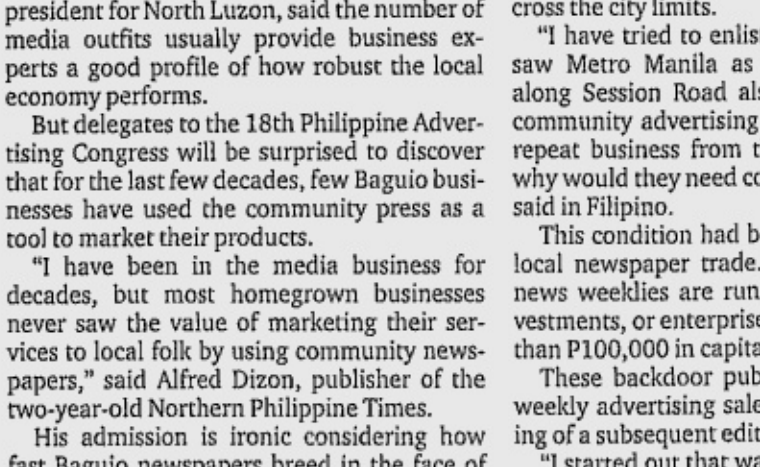
None of the local publishers could explain why they continued to print their weekly editions despite the poor sales.

However, the new business players in the provinces should offer the provincial press a new lease on life.

Estepa said newspapers should expect the ruthless competition between immigrant entrepreneurs and hometown businesses to perk up marketing in Baguio City and the rest of Northern Luzon.

He said new business enterprises have been abandoning the traditional Metro Manila markets and are penetrating the provinces.

The entry of new businesses in Baguio, including SM City Baguio and various



BROADSHEETS give local papers a run for their ad money.

PROVINCIAL/ B2-2

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PROVINCIAL/ B2-2

It's business as usual. Thanks to you.

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Pawnshops are not lending investors

By Neil S. Boncodin
SGV & CO

NOW it's official—pawnshops, which are engaged in the business of lending money on personal property delivered as security for loans, are not considered "lending investors" for the purpose of imposing the five percentage tax under Section 116 of the old Tax Code.

TAX-FILES

Prior to the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of "Commisioner of Internal Revenue vs. Michel J. Lhuiller Pawnshop, G.R. No. 150947, July 15, 2003, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has consistently ruled that the business of a pawnshop, i.e., lending money at interest, is akin to a lending investor's business. In fact, in an unnumbered BIR DA Ruling, dated June 20, 2003, the BIR citing Revenue Memorandum Order No. 15-91, held that pawnshops are subject to the five percent lending investor's tax imposed under then Section 116 of the Tax Code.

The BIR further ruled that, while Central Bank Circular No. 374 includes pawnshops among those considered as non-bank financial intermediaries under the supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), for tax purposes, pawnshops are considered as lending investors.

BIR circulars

In 1991, the BIR issued Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 15-91 and Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 43-91 to clarify that pawnshops are liable to the five percentage tax on lending investors. The said issuances explained that the principal activity of a pawnshop of lending money at interest and incidentally accepting a "pawn" of personal property delivered by the pawner to the pawnee as security for the loan makes pawnshop business akin to lending investor's business activity.

In the M.J. Lhuiller Pawnshop Case, the Supreme Court ruled once and for all that pawnshops are NOT lending investors for the purpose of imposing the five percent lending investor's tax under then Section 116 of the Tax Code. The Supreme Court gave the following reasons for its decision:

- Under the old Tax Code, pawnshops and lending investors are taxed differently. Lending investors were subjected to the five percent tax while pawnshops were subject to a fixed tax of P 1,000.
- Congress never intended pawnshops to be treated in the same way as lending investors. It was the intent of Congress to deal with both subjects differently.
- Section 116 of the old Tax Code subjects to percentage tax only dealers in securities and lending investors. There is no mention of pawnshops.
- Since Section 116 of the old Tax Code, which breathed life on the questioned administrative issuances, had already been repealed by Republic Act 7716, otherwise known as the Expanded VAT Law, RMO 15-91 and RMC 43-91, which depended upon it, are deemed automatically repealed.

Invalid issuances

The Supreme Court also found the absence of publication of the RMO and RMC as fatal to the Petitioner Commissioner of Internal Revenue's (CIR) cause.

The Supreme Court held that adding to the invalidity of the said issuances is the absence of publication. While the rule-making authority of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (CIR) is not doubted, like any other government agency, the CIR may not disregard legal requirements (such as publication) or applicable principles in the exercise of quasi-legislative powers.

The Supreme Court observed that pawnshops are strictly regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas pursuant to the Pawnshop Regulation Act.

On the other hand, there is no special law governing lending investors. Thus, due to the wide differences between the two, pawnshops had never been considered as lending investors for tax purposes. Besides, it was not the intention of the law to impose percentage taxes on pawnshops because if it were so, pawnshops would have been included as among the businesses specifically subject to percentage tax. Inasmuch as revenue laws impose special burdens upon taxpayers, the enforcement of such laws should not be extended by implication beyond the clear import of the language used.

Finally, the Supreme Court noted that in 1994, House Bill No. 11197 sought to impose the five percent tax on pawnshops and observed that if pawnshops were covered within the term lending investor, there would have been no need to introduce such amendment to include owners of pawnshops.

Expanded VAT

However, such proposed amendment was not adopted. Instead, the approved bill became Republic Act 7716, otherwise known as the Expanded VAT Law, which repealed Section 116 of the old Tax Code, the basis of RMO No. 15-91 and RMC No. 43-91.

The decision did not state the kind of business tax pawnshops are liable to. It simply ruled that pawnshops are not liable to percentage tax imposed on lending investors under then Section 116 of the Tax Code.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1996, when the EVAT Law took effect, lending investors have become subject to the ten percent value added tax. Can it be argued that since pawnshops are not liable to the percentage tax imposed on lending investors, which has been replaced with the VAT, pawnshops are not liable to the VAT imposed on lending investors? Technically, yes.

However, VAT is imposed not only on lending investors but in general, on all persons who sell services for a fee. For sure, there are exceptions to the general rule in that certain sale of services are exempt from VAT.

The VAT law is very specific on those services exempt from VAT. Section 109 of the Tax Code enumerates the VAT-exempt transactions and the sale of services by pawnshops is not one of those specifically enumerated as exempt. Among the exempt transactions are those services subject to percentage tax under Title V (paragraph J). If pawnshops, as finally ruled by the Supreme Court, are not subject to percentage tax under Title V (where percentage tax on lending investors falls), is it correct to conclude that pawnshops are therefore subject to VAT from the very start, i.e., Jan. 1, 1988?

Companies test marketing limits

CHICAGO—George Weldon knows that the typical Wrangler jeans buyer is about 35, married with 2-point-something children and lives in a two-income household.

As director of brand licensing, he hopes the same target customer would just love a new $1,199 Wrangler sofa.

From Wrangler furniture to Everlast jewelry, US consumer products makers are branching out into unexpected new markets in hopes of boosting sales. It's all in the name of building "lifestyle brands" that are as much about promoting a way of life as they are about selling jeans or boxing gloves.

But convincing customers to buy a product simply for the brand name may be a tough task. Analysts warn that these brand extensions often fail when they stray too far from what the companies do best.

"These moves are all about the quest for growth," said Russ Hagey, a consumer products consultant with Bain & Co. "The odds of success, we would suggest, would be quite low."

In the last week alone, VF Corp., maker of Wrangler jeans, said it was teaming up with furniture company Flexsteel Industries Inc. to make Wrangler brand furniture, and boxing gear-maker Everlast Worldwide Inc. announced plans for a line of men's jewelry.

Last month, Smith & Wesson Holding Corp., parent of the legendary 151-year-old handgun maker, introduced a western-inspired home decor, clothing and jewelry catalog.

Companies have tracked consumer behavior for decades, trying to find out why, when and how people buy in hopes of making them buy even more. *Reuters*

Provincial . . .

From page B2-1

fast food franchises, already represent a P1-billion capital infusion this year alone, Estepa said.

Dizon said there is indeed evidence that local business attitudes have started to change because of incoming rivals.

But he is convinced that the warming relationship between community newspapers and local business can also be attributed to the evolution of the provincial media.

Newspapers like Dizon's Times, Zigzag Weekly or the Northwide Philippines Gazette have widened their circulation to include the Northern Luzon provinces.

These newspapers have also taken on a new face, with glossier paper stock, color photographs and jazzed-up layouts that match Metro Manila broadsheets.

Allan Maligpas, Gazette's publisher and editor, said the evolving regional or district newspapers that service Northern Luzon provinces helped define new business boundaries for Baguio-based enterprises.

"Provincial newspapers functioned on a self-limiting perspective like the small businesses. They saw their territory only by the number of newsstands where their editions are present. But when businesses see the same newspaper presence in San Fernando City (in La Union) or Pangasinan, they realize that people there are also part of their markets," Dizon said.

He said local establishments like hotels "are only now realizing that domestic markets can be developed on much closer quarters, instead of seeking out tourists from Metro Manila."

"I managed to land two long-term contracts with a new Baguio hotel. And I have been able to get them clients from San Fernando City, so I have proven to them that their marketing investment in my newspaper is sound," Dizon said.

Baguio-based newspapers are now distributed to the lowlands to service communities that have no newspapers or have few choices that compare to national broadsheets, said Adam Borja, editor of the Cordillera Today.

Borja said homegrown businesses in the last few months are discovering new niches for themselves, which newspapers and other media outfits can service.

But he said provincial newspapers have not evolved enough to match these growing niche markets. Although glossier, with color photographs and attractive layout, Baguio newspapers are virtual clones, he said.

Borja said the new business faces entering Baguio and the rest of northern Luzon want new forms of media to sell their product.

Ice cream firm . . .

From page B2-1

The unique taste of Selecta Wall's ice cream is one reason behind the good export receipts this year despite difficulties such as the outbreak of the deadly SARS virus that brought down economic activity in Asia.

"Despite all these problems, ice cream still sold very well. We posted a 50 percent growth in volume and value this year and there is still a good potential for growth," Concepcion says.

He adds that the company's vision is to be the leading player in the frozen novelties market in Asia-Pacific and push the company beyond Philippine shores.

"If the Philippines is known to have the best mangoes, we want to be known as the supplier of the best mango ice cream. We also want to grow the category so that we will not just be a niche player but a real player especially with free trade," he says.

Ad campaign brings hamburger chain closer to Filipino hearts

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN Leo Burnett executive creative director Richard Irvine came to the Philippines in 1999, he noticed that the advertisements of the leading fastfood chains only featured the latest product and price offerings to attract the market.

Irvine thought then that there must be a better way to portray Leo Burnett's client McDonald's and so he challenged his group to come up with a different spin to advertisements to make the American burger chain stand out from the crowd.

The creative group took on the dare and it resulted in the launch of the "Kita Kits sa McDo" advertising campaign in January 2000, which culminated in the multi-award winning Karen/Gina television commercial of 2001.

"We analyzed the brand again and thought about what was its appeal considering that it has been around for more than 20 years. And we came out with the conclusion that it was a bonding place for friends and family beyond home, school and offices," explains Leo Burnett creative director Lilit Reyes.

Irvine suggested the line "See You in McDonald's" but Reyes thought that it would have more appeal to the Filipinos if the line is done in Filipino.

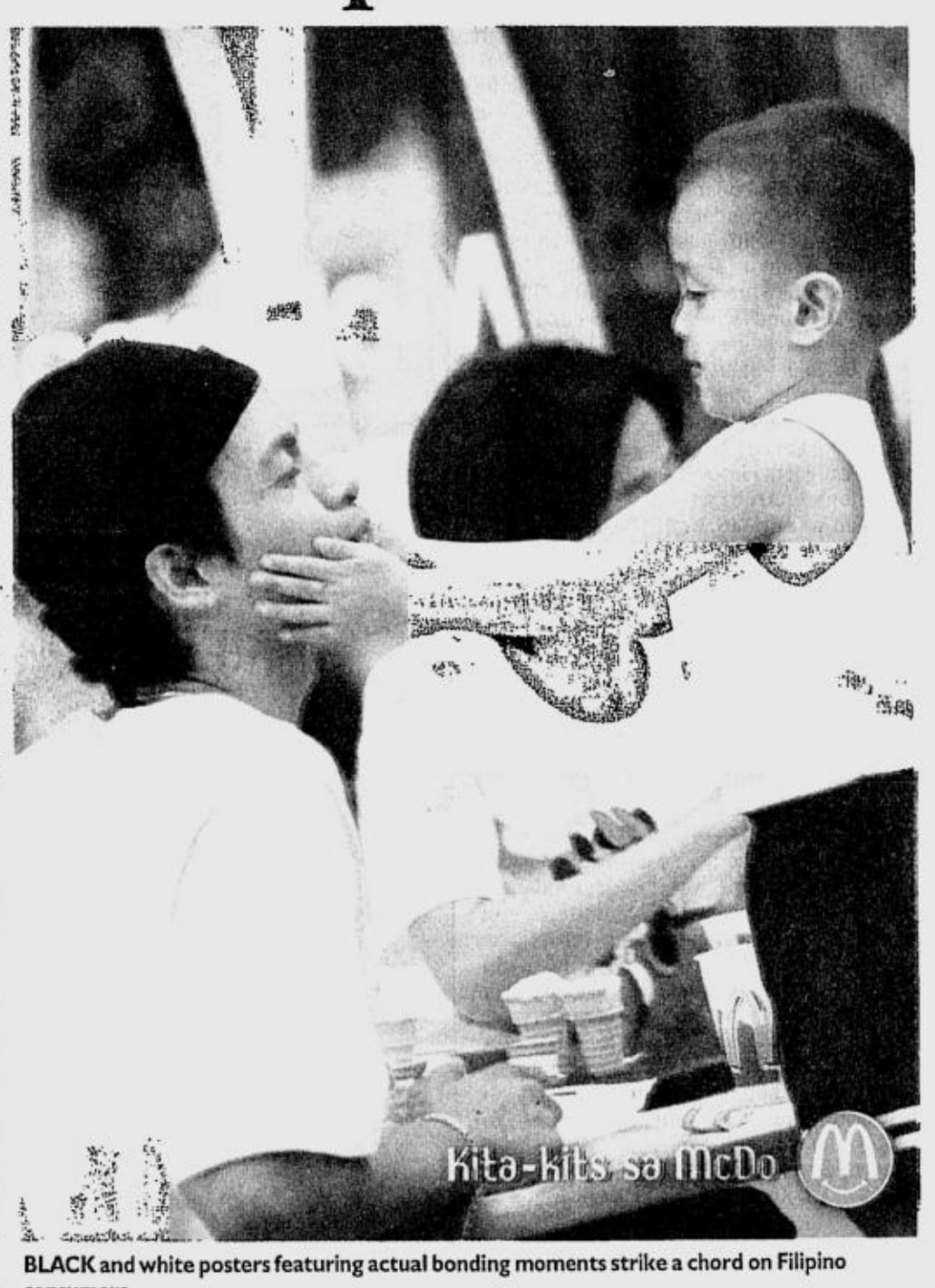
"When he said that, I automatically thought of 'Kita Kits sa McDo.' We did not invent the phrase because it was already being used at that time and Filipinos also usually referred to McDonald's as McDo. It was conversational," Reyes explains.

In keeping with the vision of bringing McDonald's closer to home, the creative team kicked off the campaign with posters featuring actual bonding scenes between friends and family in McDonald's stores.

"We did not get advertising photographers but photo journalists to give that reality feel to these life stories. We executed the photos in black in white to give that photo journalistic feel and it gave more poignancy to the moment," he says.

The photo shoots took the team to different stores and the posters were followed up by television commercials that also attempted to feature slices of real life among Filipinos.

"We used new directors because they were still in touch with the masses. It was one of those shoots where we did not have a script because we just relied on what actually happens in the stores," Reyes says.



BLACK and white posters featuring actual bonding moments strike a chord on Filipino consumers.

Boosting the campaign was the appearance of Sharon Cuneta as celebrity endorser of the campaign.

"Sharon was really very effective because her personality fit what we want McDonald's to stand for. She has that childlike quality and the proper values," Reyes says.

Providing a rousing end to the Kita-Kits campaign was the Karen/Gina commercial that won for the Philippines the first gold in the 2001 Asia-Pacific adfest in Pattaya, Thailand, as well as the TV Ad of the Year from the Creative Guild of the Philippines.

Reyes says the campaign proved that the Filipino consumers support advertisements that send heartwarming messages.

He adds that the campaign also successfully shifted McDonald's advertisements from menu advertising to "experiential" advertising even before the days when reality television became such a hit with Filipinos.

"The campaign gave me hope that if you put something good and meaningful in an ad and it's a delight to watch, people would respond," Reyes says.

Edsel Tolentino, who was the group creative director behind the Karen/Gina ad, says that the new challenge for the team is to follow-up on the success of the "Kita-Kits sa McDo" campaign with its new "Love Ko 'To" campaign, which is part of the global campaign that revolves around the line "I'm Loving It."

"We entered this new phase in September and there is a conscious effort on our part to bridge where we were to where we are going," Tolentino says.

He expressed confidence that the "Love Ko 'To" campaign would also bring in as much success as Kita-Kits because the group has already been able to firmly put the American McDonald's into the Filipino consciousness.

Red egg venture gives this lady chance to share

By Romulo O. Ponte,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

VICTORIA, Laguna—Cecilia Corcuera, 45, a Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Accounting graduate, is quiet, simple and unassuming. She believes that personal touch, generosity and faith in God combined are the secrets of her success in the salted egg business.

Corcuera says since she started her business, she never forgets to pray and ask God for guidance and blessings which, according to her, are always granted.

She says she also sees to it that she never forgets to share her blessings with people in need.

The lady entrepreneur supplies red eggs for free to an orphanage for abandoned children in Mabitac, Laguna, which is managed by priests.

She also supplies free salted eggs regularly to some parishes in the diocese. "Every time I give some of my products or proceeds to religious institutions or to anybody in need, I always get back more blessings in the form of plenty of buyers and good products."

She says she always gives God a free hand as to the success or failure of her enterprise. "When I have plenty of surplus stocks, I would tell God 'Lord you gave me plenty of salted eggs to produce, please give me customers/buyers.' Then in following days, buyers would come one after another."

Beginning

Corcuera started her salted egg enterprise in 1997 with a capital of about P20,000. She was producing some 500 or more pieces of eggs twice a week.

Today, she produces an average of 6,000 salted/red eggs daily and her market reaches as far as Japan, Baguio, Quezon Province, Bataan, Batangas City, Rustan's and Land Mark in Makati City, other Metro Manila areas and nearby provinces.

Corcuera says her biggest buyers come from Calamba City, Laguna; Pasig City, Marikina and Malabon where she supplies each with 5,000 pieces of salted eggs weekly.

The product can be stored for about a month or more when refrigerated.

At the initial stage of her business, Corcuera, a member of the El Shaddai Catholic Charismatic Group Victoria Chapter, says she personally did the dirty job of processing the salted eggs from start to finish. She only had one helper then. She worked inside a small extension of their old house.

Today, Corcuera, has built a concrete, spacious building capable of accommodating thousands of her products. She still personally supervises the making of the red eggs with the help of five sturdy men who, she says, gets free board and lodging and Social Security System benefits.

Her workers are from Laguna and the Quezon province.

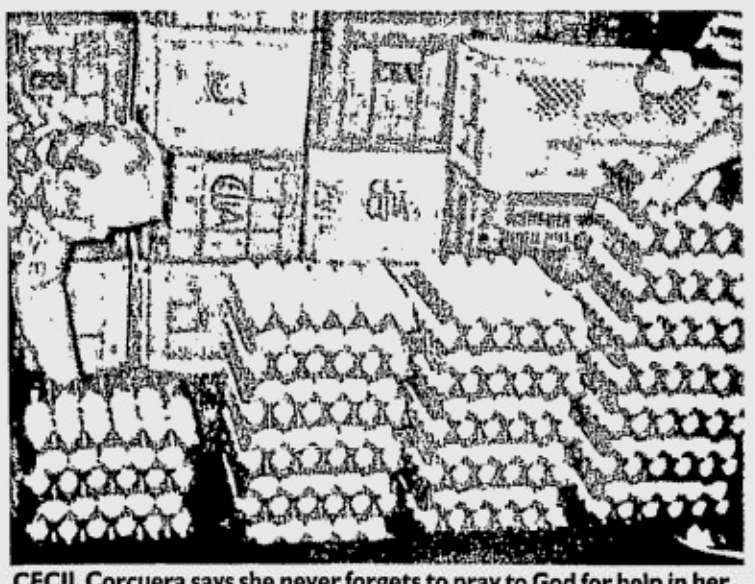
She says she was able to buy vehicles for private use as well as for transporting her products and getting raw egg supplies from one of the biggest duck egg producers in town.

A single mother, Corcuera also uses some of her proceeds for the schooling of her 11-year-old son John Sebastian in Manila.

The lady entrepreneur says the peak seasons for big orders are the November, December and January; also during the Lenten Season.

The steps in processing salted

RED/ B2-5



CECIL Corcuera says she never forgets to pray to God for help in her business

PHOTO BY ROMULO PONTE

How RP's first . . .

From page B1

borrow "The Three Musketeers" of "The Great Dictator."

In making the program line-up, I would use a mechanical film counter to determine how many minutes and seconds the film would run.

On Nov. 16, 1953, we televised our first full length live program "Cyrano de Bergerac" from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Vic Diaz was Cyrano while Luisa Lichauco was Roxanne. There were several Ateneans in the play including basketball star Francisco Rabat, Quintiliano Literal and Mario Ballesteros. The role of nun and flower girl was played by Marilou Cacho. I think it was Father Reuter who directed the TV play with the assistance of Assumption Convent.

Things began to brighten up a bit in early 1954. Gabby Tabuñar, now the president of Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) joined ABS, in what capacity I cannot seem to recall. Gabby launched and directed Alto Craft's "Platter Merry Go Round" which was emceed by Vero.

A few weeks later, Jose Climaco launched "The TV Talent Show" at 8 p.m. every Thursday, sponsored jointly by the Manila Times, Daily Mirror and Women's Weekly Magazine. By now we already had nightly "TV Headlines" which caught the interest of most televiewers.

Serious efforts to set up dzAQ-TV Channel 3 began in April 1953. The vision of Judge Quirino was to provide Filipino families with a new information and entertainment medium to improve the quality of life. but the problems of Judge Quirino began when Congress denied his application for a license to operate a TV station. He then turned to James B. Lindenberg, president of TV-licensee Bolinao Electronics Corp., and offered to buy the company under terms that included naming Lindenberg EVP and COO of ABS.

Challenges

On hindsight the political, social and economic environment was a hodgepodge of events not conducive to the establishment of a commercial TV station. Dollars were scarce. We had no foreign currency allocation to import much needed broadcasting equipment and film program materials. Advertisers were not ready to sponsor non-professional programs in an untested medium.

Consumers had no funds to buy imported black and white TV sets which were limited in supply to begin with. Philippine Airlines was offering direct flights to Hamburg, Germany for only P1,400 (36 hours flying time) and nobody was buying. The presidential derby was peaking in a contest between former defense secretary Ramon Magsaysay and incumbent President Elpidio Quirino. The Korean war was still on with Col. Nicanor Jimenez heading the 14th batallion combat team of our Philippine Expeditionary Forces. Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson was his usual self, criticizing government officials including Judge Quirino for his alleged illegal acquisition of teh television tower of dzAQ-TV.

On the bright side, Virgilio Hilario and his wife, former Miss Universe Armi Kuusela, were arriving from a three-month overseas honeymoon while Nida Blanca was beginning her climb to movie stardom. Juan Antonio Carrion just got married to Carmita Legarda while Leo Espinosa had knocked out world flyweight champion Yosho Shirai. And of course the Kahirup Club continued to be the most prestigious women's club, hugging the society pages everyday.

The studio of dzAQ-TV were Judge Antonio Quirino, president and CEO; James B. Lindenberg, executive VP and COO; Harry "Slim" Chaney, chief of engineers; Benjamin Pambuan, VP for finance; Eddie Martelino, director for special events; Vero Perfecto, news director; Charlie Agatep, program director and Millie Logarts, program manager.

Carandang and Carballo had a crash program on TV engineering in the Radio Corp. of America whiel Joe Navarro studied 16mm TV film production and camera techniques in Philadelphia. It was a coincidence that I obtained a master's degree in mass communications, major in radio and TV broadcasting, from Boston University under a Fulbright and Smith Mundt fellowship. I came home just in time to help nurse the birth of commercial television in the Philippines.

The Chronicle Broadcasting Network (CBN) was established in 1956. One year later it merged with ABS to become to what is now ABS-CBN.

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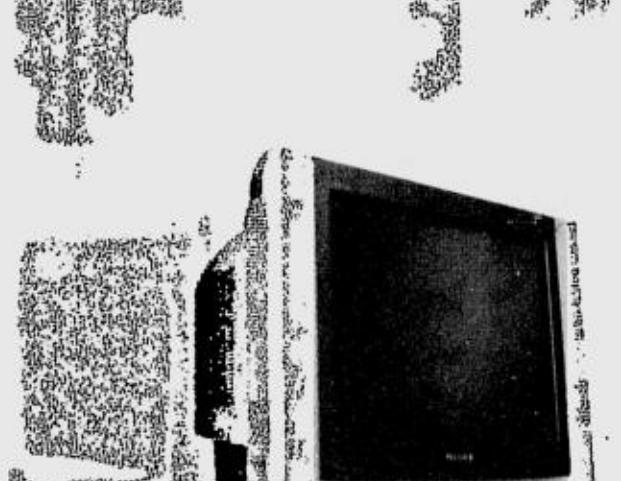

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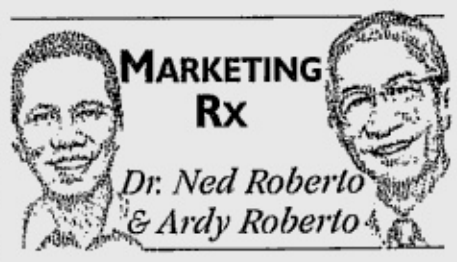
Direct sales, network marketing: Misunderstood, underused and abused



THANKS for your questions! We've got a load of them. Let's start with this set:

"My group has been granted the exclusive distributorship of a European brand of cosmetics and personal care products. My friends have suggested distributing my products through direct selling or direct marketing rather than (through) the traditional retail outlets. What's the difference between direct selling, network marketing and direct marketing? Or are they all the same? What are the advantages and disadvantages of distributing using these non-traditional methods? How can we start a direct selling operation?" —*JP, entrepreneur from Cebu*

MRx recently sat down with a group of young maverick businessmen from Cebu. They wanted advice on how to use the direct selling or network marketing method of distribution to sell and distribute their products. In a few weeks, several container loads of personal care products—ranging from cologne, lotions, skin whitening products, to baby food were arriving in Cebu. They admitted that they didn't have the money to battle J&J or Splash in terms of consumer advertising or trade promotions and that they were looking at other non-traditional distribution methods to sell their products.

First thing we had to do was make clear some definitions since the Cebuanos were using direct selling, network marketing and direct marketing in the same breath assuming they were all the same.

Direct selling

Direct selling is person-to-person selling. Think Avon, Tupperware, Filway, Mary Kay or Sara Lee. Direct sellers make money by buying wholesale from the mother company and selling these to customers at retail. The margins vary from 15 percent to 30 percent or more. A successful direct seller can make more money by being promoted by the company to agency manager or distributor (similar to the insurance agency set-up) where they can now make commissions on the people that they recruit to join their agency group or distributorship. One example is Mercy Evangelista, the most successful Avon direct seller in the history of Avon Philippines. Mercy started over thirty years ago by selling Avon products to her neighbors in Davao City. She rode tricycles to deliver product then. Now, she owns the building in Davao City that houses her Avon distributorship as well as a couple of resorts and a school. She still delivers Avon products personally to special customers-but this time in one of her SUVs. Maybe we can write more about Mercy and other direct sellers who made it big in a later column. (If not, check out the new book, S4-Success Secrets of the Sales Superstars at all National Bookstore outlets. This is the only book that has local case studies of successful entrepreneurs in direct selling and network marketing.)

Network marketing

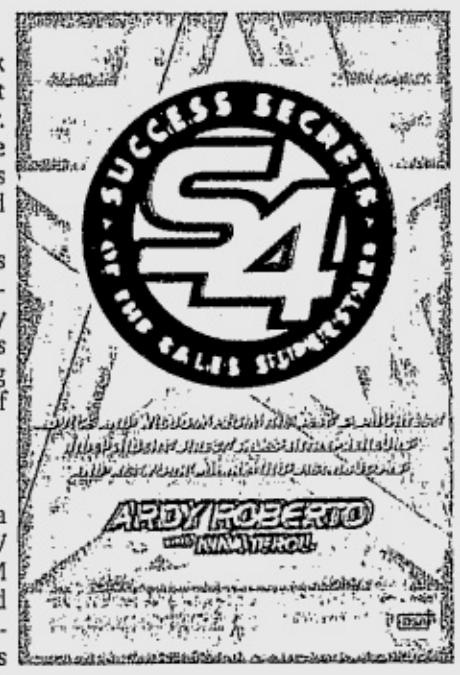
Network marketing is also person-to-person selling but a different compensation plan is used to pay the direct sellers involved in it. Here, all distributors or members are allowed to recruit or sponsor someone else into their own group and earn a commission or royalty whenever that new distributor or member buys something from the company. Still, a distributor may opt to make money just by buying wholesale and selling at retail. The margins are usually at 20 percent to 40 percet.

When you talk about network marketing think Amway, Nu Skin, Reliv, Symmetry or Waters. Network marketing companies, the legitimate ones anyway, are all direct selling companies. While not all direct selling companies use network marketing. In the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP), there are now 28 member companies (including the companies mentioned above); about 40 percent to 50 percent of the member companies use network marketing. (Visit the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines website for a list of its members www.dsap.ph or refer to Josiah Go's book, Build, Grow and Sustain Your Network Marketing Distributor Business for more information.)

Network marketing, also known as Multi Level Marketing (MLM), is a much misunderstood but powerful distribution method. It's powerful because it uses an army of independent distributors—mostly people looking for part-time businesses to invest their time and money in. And that's where both the beauty and beast in network marketing comes out. The beauty of network marketing is that, as a company or a distributor, you don't have to invest much capital to get a distribution network started. The problem is that since all of your sales force are independent, you have no control over what they do or say to make a sale to their customers or "recruit" other distributors. That's where the beast of MLM rears its ugly head. Misrepresentation, hard selling and over promising of product benefits or of the business opportunity lead to cries of "naloko ako!" or "nabiktima ako!" by trusting friends or relatives.

Having said that, there are also companies that use the network marketing method as a front for distributing products of dubious value. Cellcards, web sites, and even rice have been sold by sucker-prowling fly-by-night companies. When you think pyramiding, think of companies that promise unlimited earnings by simply recruiting members who will pay membership fees. In a legitimate network marketing company commissions can only be made when a product is sold.

Network marketing suffers from the same birth pains as franchising. When franchising was introduced in the US decades ago, the US Congress almost outlawed it and declared it illegal akin to a pyramiding scheme. The franchising law escaped by a slim vote. Because the concept was so radical, new, and abused, it was almost outlawed. Today, MLM or network marketing is being called the "people's franchise." We'll talk about that aspect later. Still there are success stories and network marketing as a distribution strategy and business is thriving inspite of criticisms and attacks.



Arlene Balangue, a former SGV officer, AIM alumni and DLSU professor has consistently been Herbalife's top distributor in the Philippines. She remained steadfast even when Herbalife, if you remember, almost folded to the pressure of public scrutiny when this paper and Senator Loren Legarda launched an investigative report into the alleged ill-effects of its weight loss products. Herbalife has since then survived and has professionalized its management team by pirating top Disney executives to run Herbalife in the U.S. Amway (owner of the NBA's Orlando Magic team), Herbalife, Nu Skin, etc are publicly listed companies in the US.

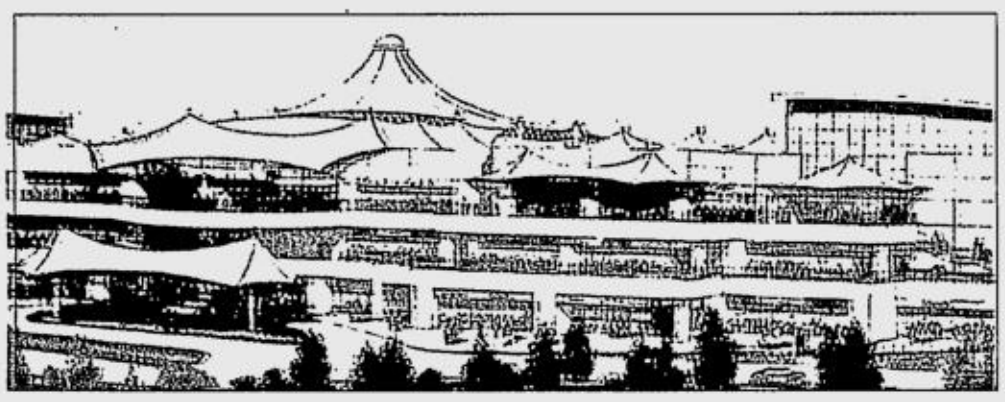
Direct marketing

How about direct marketing? DM can be described as an integrated marketing communications strategy that takes advantage of prospect and customer databases to tailor-fit its messages. DM is results oriented since responses can be directly measured. Today's direct marketing practitioners distance themselves from direct selling and network marketing. Direct marketing today is also known as interactive marketing, direct response advertising, relationship marketing, one-to-one marketing, database marketing or CRM (customer relationship marketing/management).

When you think DM, think of Reader's Digest's direct mail, mail order catalogue shopping, TV shopping, online advertising and online shopping (from Amazon.com to Divisoria.com), e-mail marketing, 1-800 numbers, call centers, telemarketing, SMS and MMS advertising, brand loyalty programs (Shopwise Club, Mercury Suki Card, etc.) Direct marketing, which used to be relegated as a below-the-line service, is now used as a major marketing communications strategy used by both small and large companies. DM is a service offered by almost all the top advertising agencies like Hemisphere Leo Burnett through iLeo/FirstDirect, Ogilvy & Mather through OgilvyOne and BCD Pinpoint, and DDB Needham through Rapp Collins, etc.). In the U.S. over 65 percent to 70 percent of all advertising and marketing communications budgets are being allocated for direct marketing. At the Ad Congress Araw Awards happening this week in Baguio, direct marketing as an advertising and communications strategy is back as a major category in itself.

In next week's column, we give the Marketing Rx recommendation to the Cebuano entrepreneurs other questions on how to use direct selling or network marketing to distribute their products.

For feedback, e-mail us at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com



SM City Baguio, taipan Henry Sy's 16th mall opened recently to the public. The mall stands at the site of the former Pines Hotel in Session Road. It has 106,231 square meters and six levels of shopping and entertainment.

Driver turns used tires into flower pots

DARAGA, Albay—The government's clean and green program has inspired a retired public utility jeepney driver to embark on a business that turns used vehicle tires into ornamental flower pots and garbage containers.

Orbano Mostoles, 65, of Barangay Busay, was not able to finish college, yet his environmental concern and innovativeness have been put into good use in his chosen enterprise.

He is not only into pot making, his initial product, but expanded into making doormats, garden sala sets, garbage containers, and motorcycle, car and truck spare parts made of rubber.

Local government units are his major buyers.

Mostoles sells the doormat at P50 up to P3,000, depending on the size, while the sala set costs P2,000 to P3,000. The garbage container costs P300 to P500 per piece.

He says he also supplies rubber straps to furniture makers in the province.

Mostoles claims that his finished products have been recognized by the Department of Trade and Industry regional office here.

P2,000 capital

With a starting capital of P2,000 in 1971, the couple has made a name in rubber products in the Bicol Region.

With patience, perseverance and hard work, the couple, which used to stay in a nipa hut and transferred from one place to another, was able to save enough to build a concrete house.

They were also able to buy a car, which is used for delivering products to as far as Sorsogon and other provinces in the Bicol Region.

Mostoles says that after each delivery, which he personally does using his own car, he also makes the products himself, especially the ornamental pots, which his wife Roseta sells in the market the following morning.

Roseta says that in the previous years, each pot cost 10-50 centavos, depending on the size. Now, a pot costs P10 to P50.

Family enterprise

Owing to quality products and good service to buyers, orders for Mostoles' made-to-order rubber products have increased.

He says their seven children help in the production and marketing.

Glenn, the youngest child, says making rubber products is as easy as milking a cow.

According to him, at least four small pots can be made out of a regular nylon car tire.

If the worker is already versatile in rubber products making, Glenn says, he can make at least 90 to 100 pots a day.

The Montoles couple says they are blessed as parents, because they are now able to put better food on the table for the family.

Profitable

Mostoles says their business is profitable because it does not require expensive equipment, but a lot of creativity.

He also claims that finding the materials has never been a problem because owners of auto shops and vehicle owners and drivers regularly come in to sell their used tires.

The used tires cost P20 each.

For Mostoles, finding a market is also not a problem because the Sangguniang Kabataan chapters and many government offices are ready customers.

Durable

Customers told Mostoles that they prefer to buy rubber pots rather than those made of clay, and rubber trash containers rather than those made of plastic materials because of the durability.

ORBONO Mostoles turns other people's trash into useful things

PHOTO BY NINO ORBETA

Mostoles says rubber products—especially doormats, garbage containers and pots—could last at least five years.

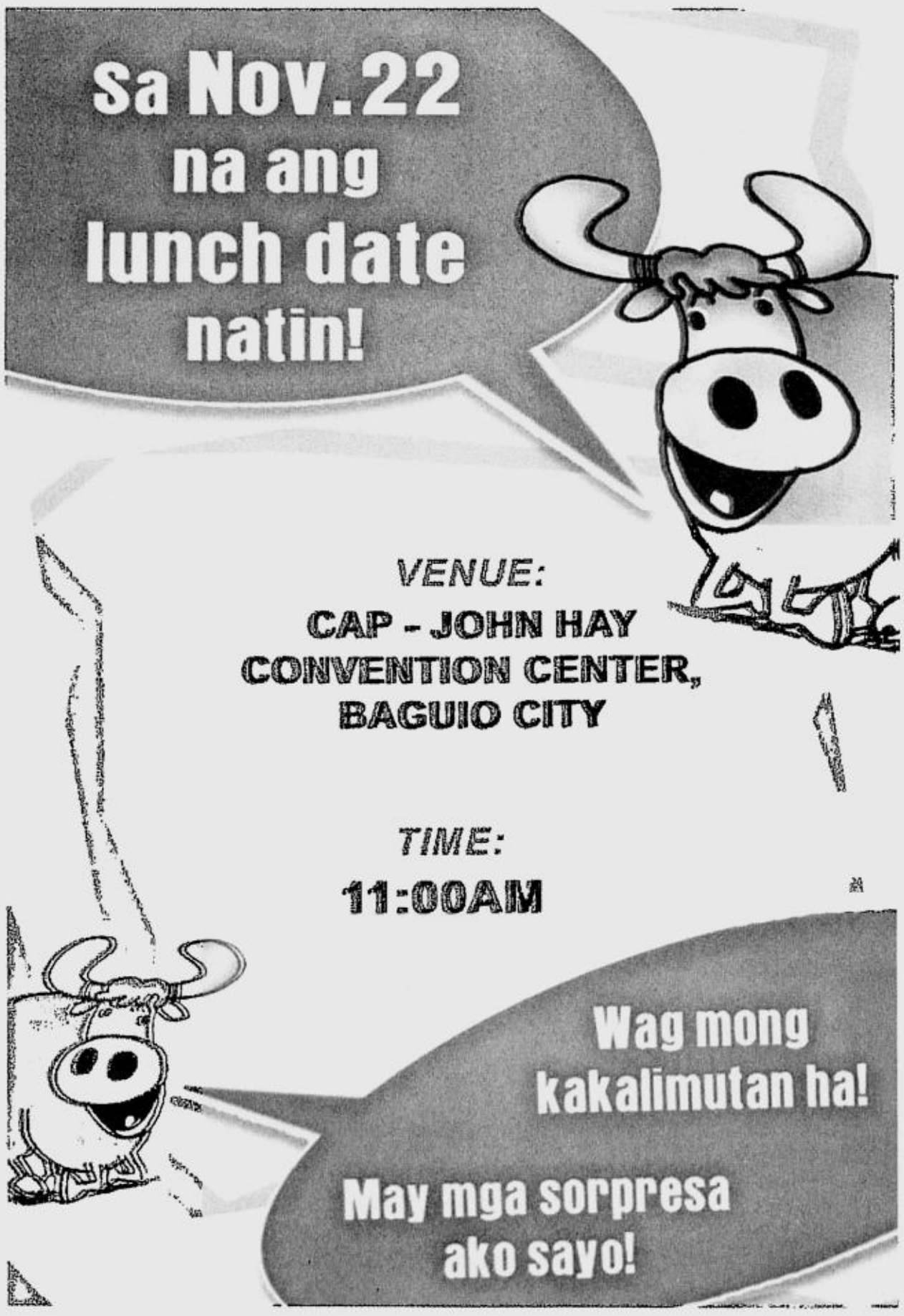
When it comes to car, truck and motorcycle spare parts, he says, operators and drivers prefer the fabricated bushing rather than those sold in hardware stores.

"One good thing about a rubber product is that, if it is damaged, it can be easily repaired and repainted. Once it's done, it looks as good as new," Mostoles says.

Environmental awareness

With their unique business, the couple says with pride that the presence and visibility of garbage containers in the offices of local government units somehow help educate the citizens on how to throw their waste in the proper place, thereby promoting cleanliness and environmental awareness.

"The government offices' project of putting up garbage containers in conspicuous places somehow not only helps us but also promotes cleanliness in the society and in the environment as a whole," Mostoles says. *Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



Supermarket focuses on gifts this Christmas

ONE of the simplest ways to nurture external and internal business relations is by remembering clients, associates and employees during special occasions. Christmas is a perfect opportunity to express one's gratitude and goodwill.

Gifts could be the company's products or baskets containing items running the gamut from grocery items to bottles of wine and perfume. They would especially be well appreciated as giveaways for clients and prizes for employee Christmas parties.

Some of the best Christmas gift basket sources are supermarkets. Robinsons Supermarket, for instance, has a number of choices ranging from fresh fruits to wine and grocery baskets available under different price brackets. They have baskets below P200 packed with goodies at marked down prices with the festive gift wrapping and gift tag thrown in for free. Some baskets also include stuffed teddy bears, coffee mugs and other premiums as basket add-ons. Premium baskets, filled with items like quality wine and cheese, wine and nuts and the like are ideal for CEOs.

Another ideal gift is the Robinsons Supermarket gift certificates. This way, recipients can choose the supermarket goodies of their choice for Christmas. Robinsons Supermarket gift certificate comes in P100 and P500 denominations.

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With the pail as its pioneer product, it came up with the brand name Orocan—the "can" from "water can" (used to be made of tin) and the gold or oro for luck or cachet (which was later on attributed to high standards). The pail or *timba* was a must-have during the height of the water crisis. Plastic pails in red, green and blue colors lined up the water pump, each one looking the same as the other, so how can an Orocan *timba* stand out? Word spread that Orocan is the more enduring choice and the brand found a niche to fill. The "Orocan" pail then morphed into huge receptacles with rotating lid-locks and flip-top locks in various colors and use as innovation and creativity allow.

In 1997, the era of satellite communities, start-up homes, and smaller spaces created a need for home "organizers." Plastic came to the forefront, being the lighter choice for mobility and home upgrade. A box is an ideal container, thus, Orocan developed the Caha de Oro line. Caha de Oro is beyond a plastic box with drawers.

It introduced the powder-coated tubular frames to keep the vinyl-clad top from swaying when nudged or moved. It has opted for easy-wipe vinyl covers with colorful, decorous touches as an added feature.

Caha de Oro became a category all on its own, branching out different designs like the popular Millenia and Contura. True to form, Orocan improved on the already successful item, giving it sets of drawers (later putting the drawers on casters for easy open and shut), sealing bottoms, keeping it under lock and key (even the zippers) and giving it rollers for easier mobility. Both lines will morph into sleek chest and drawers—with or without rollers—clad in new colors and identifying detail suitable for homes and even offices, too. With Caha de Oro, it is now commonplace and fashionable to have one or two plastic closets, drawers and stackables in every Filipino home with it as the No. 1 choice.

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Diet craze bites into bread sales

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Williams, chief executive of Monterey Pasta Co., maker of gourmet frozen pastas, said the impact is difficult to measure "but we know it's there."

Purveyors of breads, pastas and other high-carb products must consider whether to adapt to the low-carb craze or risk losing sales in a competitive food market where even a small falloff can bruise profits.

Estimates vary on how many people follow low-carb diets like Atkins or the South Beach Diet, but experts agree that the craze is eating into sales of some products while unleashing a torrent of new items marketed to the dieters.

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Reuters

Red egg . . .

From page B2-3

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The eggs should be of good quality, which means the shells must be thick or strong to avoid breakage during transport and during actual processing.

Then the next thing to do is to prepare a clay soil or mud ("ponso" in dialect) to be applied with salt with the measurement of one is to one (1:1 proportion).

Then, the workers pour water to form a sticky salty muddy mixture.

The fresh eggs are then dipped into the sticky mud, seeing to it that each piece of eggs is totally wrapped in mud and properly arranged in place. The eggs are to be kept buried under the mud for 18 days to allow the salty solution to penetrate through the eggs.

Early morning on the 18th day, the muddy eggs are washed, after which they are put inside a net and then dipped in boiling water for cooking.

The eggs are kept in boiling water for six to seven hours to ensure that the egg yokes become oily.

The cooked and still hot salted eggs are now dipped into the red colored dye for coloring.

The final stage is examining the finished products and then separating the broken ones from the good ones to be ready for customers who usually come to get their bulk orders themselves or for delivery to prospective buyers.

For every 1,000 pieces of eggs being processed, at least about 50 pieces are broken. But these can still can be sold for a lower price, Corcuera says.

She admits that she just inherited the business from her mother, Maria Belen S. Corcuera, 75, who still helps her in the management of the salted egg venture.

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The second child in a family of five, Cecilia says her other siblings, have given her full control of the business.

Her three other sisters are Grace, 48; Marieta, 42, and Fe, 38. Her only brother is Jonas, 32.

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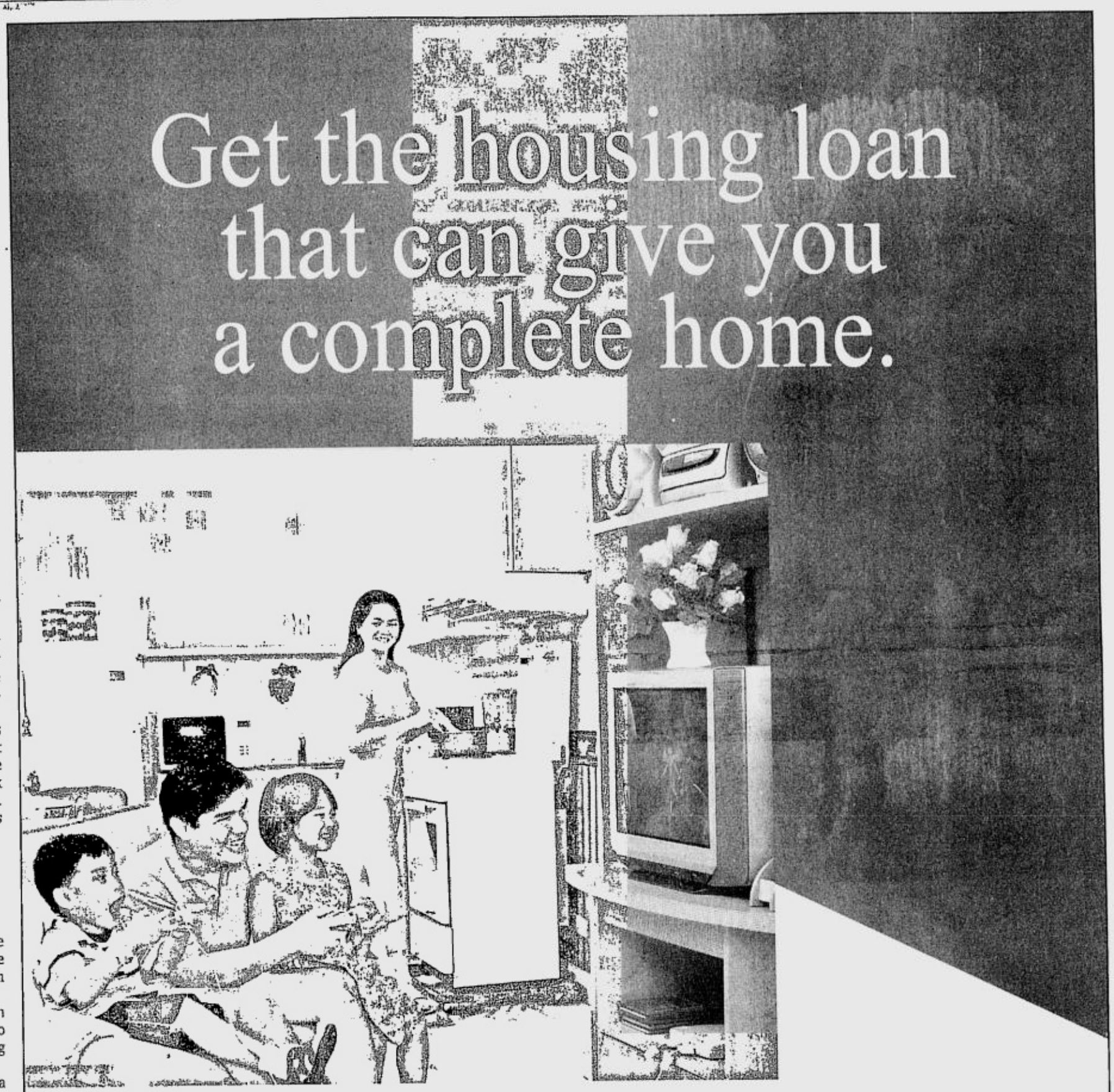

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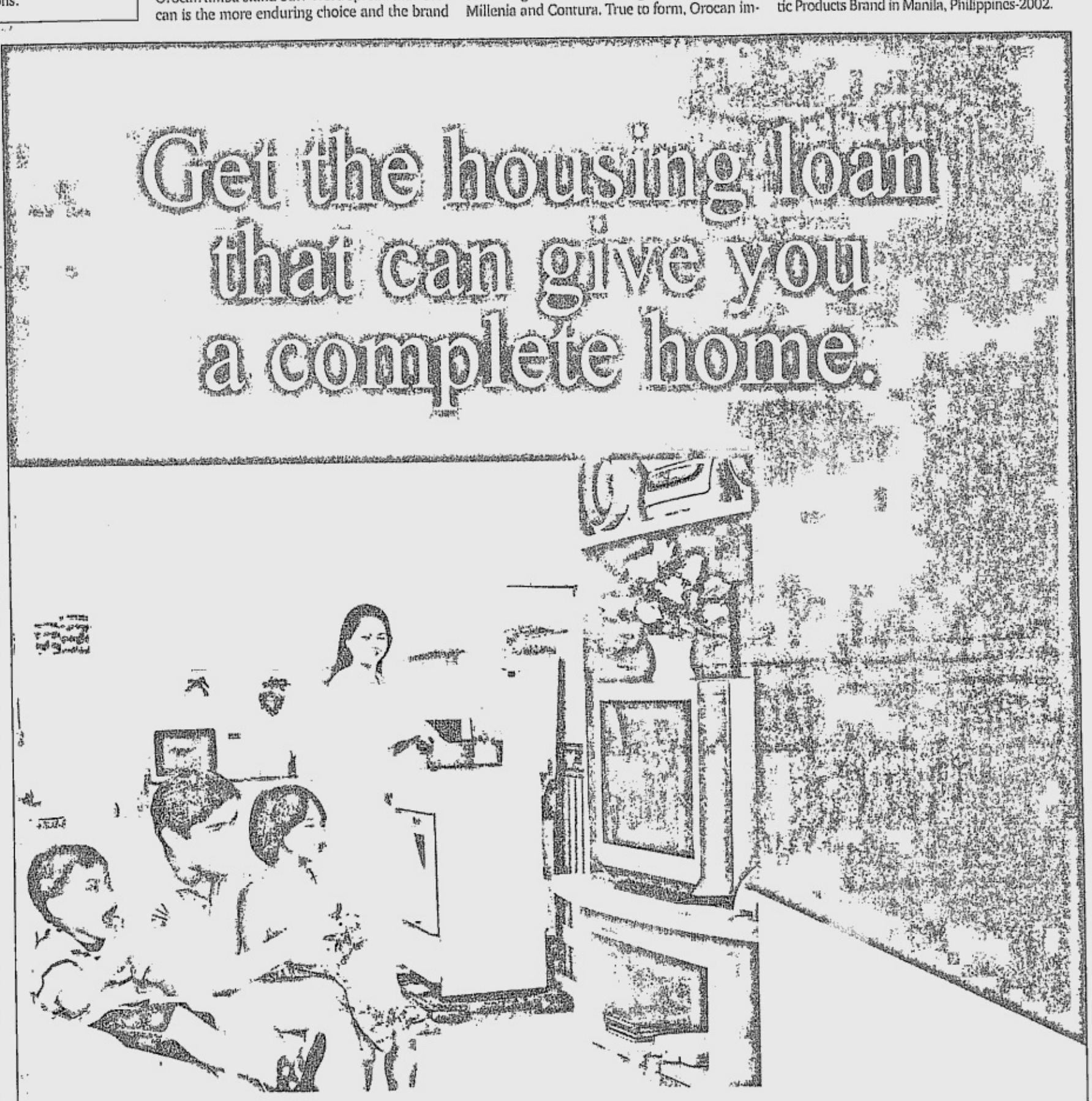

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Editor Aries Espinosa

People, Events & Products

Universal McCann wins Unilab AOR

UNITED Laboratories Inc, one of the country's top three advertisers, decided to consolidate its multi-billion media business and awarded the Agency of Record assignment to Universal McCann.

The Unilab AOR pitch is the biggest in recent history. Universal McCann went head to head with three other agencies, each one hoping to win the much-coveted account. The pitch involved a three-step selection process that included a credentials presentation, case study presentations, and a due diligence audit of the highest scoring agency.

The Unilab evaluation panel was composed of officers from its various business units. After a lengthy and thorough evaluation of each agency's capabilities, they decided to award the media AOR assignment to Universal McCann. The winning UM Team was led by Venus Navalta, SVP/managing director of UM and Malu Vasallo, UM vice president. They were supported by Patricia Arches and Emily Abrera, president and CEO, and chair of McCann-Erickson respectively.

Effective August 1 of this year, UM became responsible for all the media requirements of the various Unilab business units including Consumer Health, Nutritionals, Pediatrica, Westmont, Myra Pharmaceuticals, United Home Product, Ritemed, Merisant, Univet, Sarimanok and Thunderbird - covering more than 50 brands like Enervon, Revicon, Neozep, Tuseran, PH Care, Biogesic and Alaxan.

The Unilab AOR win solidifies Universal McCann's lead as the number one media agency in the country. It also gives Unilab a strategic media advantage. They can work hand in hand with UM to create synergy among all their brands and efficiently manage their corporate and brand resources. The result is maximized value for client: increased savings, efficiencies and control.

Unilab, the largest healthcare company in the Philippines, also has a very strong presence in other Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Myanmar. Its growing international involvement requires a partner with a strong global power who can deliver the most effective and efficient communications solutions for the company.

Universal McCann is among the world's largest media agencies and has constantly outdone its rivals by raising industry standards with its proprietary research, processes and tools. It has brought together the top talents in the industry to deliver media neutral communication plans that drive positive brand action and bring down bottom line costs for its clients.

UNITED in uplifting the Filipino's health. Unilab and Universal McCann sign media AOR contract. From left: Venus Navalta, UM managing director; Jun Vivar, UL VP for consumer health; Carlos Ejercito, UL president and COO; Patricia Arches, McCann-Erickson president; Chichi Barros, UL VP and cluster head for pediatrics and nutritionals; and Malu Vasallo, UM VP.

SM PERFECT GAME WINNERS

From left: bowling instructor Joonie Gatchalian, Builders Kitchen Inc treasurer Biboy Rivera, bowling instructor Jong Enriquez, and businessman Boy Cruz won perfect game awards during the various tournaments at the SM City North-Edsa Bowling Center. They were each entitled to 300 games at any SM Bowling Center and named to the Hall of Fame at the SM City North-Edsa Bowling Center. Photo shows SM's first vice president for leisure Ric Camaligan and Jose Cidric Panganiban awarding them plaques of distinction.

THE BEGINNING of a stronger and healthier partnership. From left: Joey Romana, UL category head for cough and colds; Patricia Arches, MEP president; Carlos Ejercito, UL president and COO; Venus Navalta, UM managing director; and Dino Laurena, Harrison Communications managing director.

PLANTERSBANK BAGS ANOTHER AWARD

Plantersbank was recently awarded by the Land Bank of the Philippines the most outstanding partner of the Countryside Lending Fund (CLF) and Agricultural Lending Fund (ALF) under the thrift bank category. Receiving the award is Plantersbank chair and chief executive officer Jesus P. Tambunting (3rd from left) from Land Bank president Gary V. Teves. Witnessing the ceremony are Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes (left) and Plantersbank executive vice president and account management group head Anthony Robles. Backed by more than 40 years of SME banking, Plantersbank offers to the Filipino entrepreneur the combined expertise and resources of its foreign partners—the World Bank's International Finance Corp (IFC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Netherlands Development Finance Corp (FMO).

THE GENESIS COFFEE INVASION

Genesis, the newest brand of coffee in cans are now on the shelves of major supermarkets and groceries in Metro Manila. Product samplings were conducted recently in Landmark Supermarket in Makati and Unimart in Greenhills (shown in photo) giving consumers a taste of the three flavors of Genesis Coffee: Iced Coffee Blue Mountain Style, Café Cappucino and Café Glace. Watch out for the Genesis booth in your favorite supermarkets and groceries and get a taste of this cold coffee in can that tastes just like the brew served in specialty coffee shops but a price that is easy on your pocket. Genesis Coffee cans is now available in Unimart, Landmark Supermarket, The Makati Supermart, CVC Supermarket, in selected branches of Seaoil Palamig C-Stores and Total La Boutique C-Stores and soon at SM and Robinsons Supermarkets.

PCCI has one big idea

IN RESPONSE to the Ad Congress question, "What's the big idea?", the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) offers it's theme for the upcoming Philippine Business Conference (PBC).

This year's PBC has the theme of "One Global Filipino". According to PBC chair Samie Lim, the said theme is timely and appropriate as "we are not one, neither global for Filipinos," said Lim, citing disunity and regionalism as a disadvantage reality of the Philippines society.

He commends the Ad Congress for also capitalizing on the strength of Filipino creativity and innovativeness as critical elements to economic progress. "The advocacy of the Ad Congress is synonymous to that of the PBC - and that is bringing out the best in Filipinos who has made it big in many years," quipped Lim.

This year's PBC will bring together some 20,000 SME members of the PCCI, from more than 100 local chambers and 124 trade associations.

"The PCCI has been the voice of Philippine business through 100 years of chamber movement in our country," said PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis. Year 2003 was declared by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the year of chamber movement in the Philippines. This is going to be the biggest and most glamorous business summit ever since we are celebrating the Chamber's 100th year," expressed Lim.

Lim related that PCCI has been conducting various industry conference in all five geographic areas identified by the institution.

"The first part of the conference was done in Visayas, and was hosted by Cebu Chamber while the NCR-South Sector Chamber hosted the National Capital Region (NCR) business conference. The southern and Northern Luzon conferences, on the other hand, were hosted by the South Metro Manila and Dagupan Chambers respectively," Lim quipped.

Lim added that inputs and results drawn from the said area would be incorporated in the roadmap, which will be presented to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

PSHSFI: STILL SERVING AT 25

In 1978 , when socio-economic pressures hounded the whole country, the financial requirements needed by a school to perform its duty increased rapidly while the government's allocation for educational expenses remained static. The parents of the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) students, alarmed by this problem, formed the PSHS Foundation Inc (PSHSFI) to bridge the gap between the available government funds and the actual financial requirements needed by the school to maintain educational excellence. The foundation will celebrate 25 fruitful years of service to the PSHS community via a dinner-dance cum fund-raising concert entitled 'Pasulong at Pasasalamat' today at the PSHS Gym in Diliman, Quezon City. In photo are PSHSFI's board of directors (seated, from left): Amelita Ong, Helen Macasaet, Dr. Virginia Irene Santos, Elise del Rosario, Linda Cordova, Esther Arca; (standing) Florentino España Jr., engineer Melchor Jose, Rogel Zenarosa, Dr. Rafael Saldana, Fructuoso Sabug Jr.; not in picture are Rene Abad, Carlos Berba, Cristeo Densing, Joseph Ibañez, advisers Dr. Cleofe Bacungan and lawyer Titus Villanueva, and chair emeritus Augusto de Leon.

HEALTHLINE HOST CO-HOSTS MEPI CONVENTION

Grace Choa, host and associate producer of Healthline, Kalusugan ng Bayan, Number 1, TV show on Channel 5 was co-emcee at the Marketing Executives of the Pharmaceutical-Healthcare Industry (Mepi) national convention held recently at the New World Hotel in Makati. The Mepi also awarded this year's best sales representatives, district sales manager, product manager, and strategic business unit during the event. Healthline's mission is to serve as the forum for the health care industry. Shown (from left) are: Beau Agana, GM - Pharex and co-host of the event; Grace Choa, Healthline host and associate producer; and Roberto Bautista, division manager - Pascual Laboratories Inc chair of Mepi's Excellence Award.

ProductFILES

Christmas bonus credits from Globe

GLOBE Handyphone perfectly understands the longing for relatives living or working abroad during the Yuletide season. For that reason, Globe makes long distance communication even better. Globe is offering its Prepaid and Plans subscribers the innovative gift of connectivity with the first ever promo on inbound IDD calls, Christmas bonus credits from Globe Ties.

This special holiday treat lets subscribers have a chance to earn instant rewards just by receiving international long distance calls from family and friends on their Globe Handyphone during the Christmas season. The duration of the call received is equivalent to a certain number of bonus credits. It's so easy to earn bonus credits: The more IDD calls received, the bigger chance to earn bonus credit. The longer the call, the bigger the bonus.

All you have to do is to ask your family and friends abroad to call you on your Globe Handyphone from now until Dec. 31. An incoming long distance call on your Globe Handyphone lasting 5 minutes to less than 10 minutes will give you P10 worth of free bonus credits which can be used in 2 days.

Calls lasting 10 minutes to less than 15 minutes entitles you to P25 worth of free credits which can be consumed in 3 days, while incoming long distance calls lasting 15 minutes or more will give you P50 worth of free credits which can be used up to 7 days. The number of days allowed to consume bonus credits applies only to Prepaid subscribers.

Globe prepaid subscribers will be informed of their bonus credits through a text message, while Plan subscribers will be advised of their bonus credits on their next monthly billing statement. Subscribers have the option to use their bonus credits for making voice calls, sending text messages or even myGlobe services.

So what are you waiting for? Start telling your family and friends from abroad to call you through your Globe Handyphone instead of a landline. Only Globe's Christmas bonus credits allows you to bridge the distance this Christmas with extra credits for richer connectivity while you trade stories with your loved ones this season.

THX at Robinsons Movieworld Starmills

ALL KAPAMPANGANS will now be able to experience THX Digital Cinema Standards at Robinsons Movieworld Starmills at San Fernando, Pampanga. The Cineplex located at the mall has 6 state-of-the-art cinemas boasting of the best in Movie Projection Equipment and Digital Sound System technologies and a THX standards cinema.

All the cinemas use Kinoton (Germany) Movie Projectors. Kinoton Projectors are highly regarded in the movie industry due to its reliability and consistent projection clarity. For the digital sound systems, cinemas 1 to 5 use Dolby Digital and Surround and cinema 6 uses the latest top-of-the-line Dolby Digital Ex Surround for excellent sound reproduction.

Further, THX (Lucas Films, USA) standards have been implemented at cinema 6 of Robinsons Movieworld Starmills - Pampanga. THX cinemas are considered to be the ultimate movie houses as it is built to the highest standards set by George Lucas of Lucas Films USA for the best movie experience.

The 6 world class, state-of-the-art cinemas are fully carpeted and have comfortable high backrest fabric chairs and love seats. Two cinema snack bars are conveniently located at the lobby serving the freshest popcorn, coldest drinks and sweetest chocolate bars.

Robinsons Movieworld is one of the fastest growing chain of high quality cinemas. The cinema 1 of the Robinsons Galleria Mall has a fully THX Certified Theater. By yearend, the company shall operate a total of 80 state-of-the-art cinema screens at 13 different locations in the country.

Building relationships through greeting cards

THE PHILOSOPHY that has made Hallmark the number one name in greeting cards is actually quite simple: to build and enhance relationships by meeting the consumers' need to communicate.

"I like the products that we make because the whole purpose is to bring people together in a positive way, and there's really no other business like this," says Devid Lemoine, Hallmark's product Development and Licensing Director for Asia Pacific, who joined the company right out of college and has stayed on for 34 years.

Lemoine was in Manila recently for the launching of the eighth year of Hallmark for l.i.f.e., which generates funds from greeting card purchases for children afflicted with leukemia.

Also in town to survey sales in the region, he recounts the evolution of the Hallmark card.

"When I first came to Hallmark, the greeting cards were pretty much traditional, what we call 'counter cards.' Now, we try to develop more products that target particular needs, whether they're for the younger consumers or single people or newly weds—people in different life stages."

However, the marketing strategy has evolved over the years, the rationale remains the same—to help different groups to communicate.

Lemoine is amazed at how Hallmark in the Philippines has adapted products intended for the US market to the local one. He is also quite impressed with the innovative projects it has developed, such as the packaging products of the 'Between You and Me series.'

LEMOINE

These items have a more personal and intimate feel, Lemoine says, which is more difficult to pull off in the US because it is a much bigger market.

The approaches may be different, but locally-produced Hallmark items are consistent with the parent company's standard and aim, which is "to give a consistent quality statement and offering of products that truly meet a broad variety of consumer needs."

Hallmark is banking on the good old values of product quality and integrity to stay in touch with the market despite its changing needs and fickle states.

"In order to affix the Hallmark name on something, we're going to make sure it's good. Second, we're going to make sure the products will help people come together. You won't see products that have the Hallmark name on it that have any type of rudeness or undesirable imagery."

Staying in the game also means not resting on their laurels.

"You have to be constantly trying to improve yourself and move up to the next level. You can't sit there and be satisfied with where you are today. You have to look for ways you can do things differently," says Lemoine.

For instance, the company is looking at developing a broader selection of gift items.

In the Philippines, the Ramos-Licauco family-owned Filstar Distributors Corporation can be credited for helping Hallmark establish itself in the local greeting card industry. Next year will be the 30th year that Hallmark and Filstar have been working together and Lemoine is especially pleased, noting that nowhere else in the world does this enduring partnership exist except in Italy.

Despite the advent of e-mail, mobile phones and other forms of electronic media, Lemoine is confident that the greeting card business is here to stay.

It wouldn't be entirely true to say that the company is not the least bit concerned by this development, but it takes comfort in the fact that people are going back to traditional forms of greeting.

"It was kind of clever in the beginning, but now we're seeing the traditional greeting card still has a role," observes Lemoine.

"If you're going to recognize a birthday, anniversary, wedding or death in the family—all those life events and activities that are really important to acknowledge and remember, I think a greeting card, in the traditional forms of delivery, are all part of the process."

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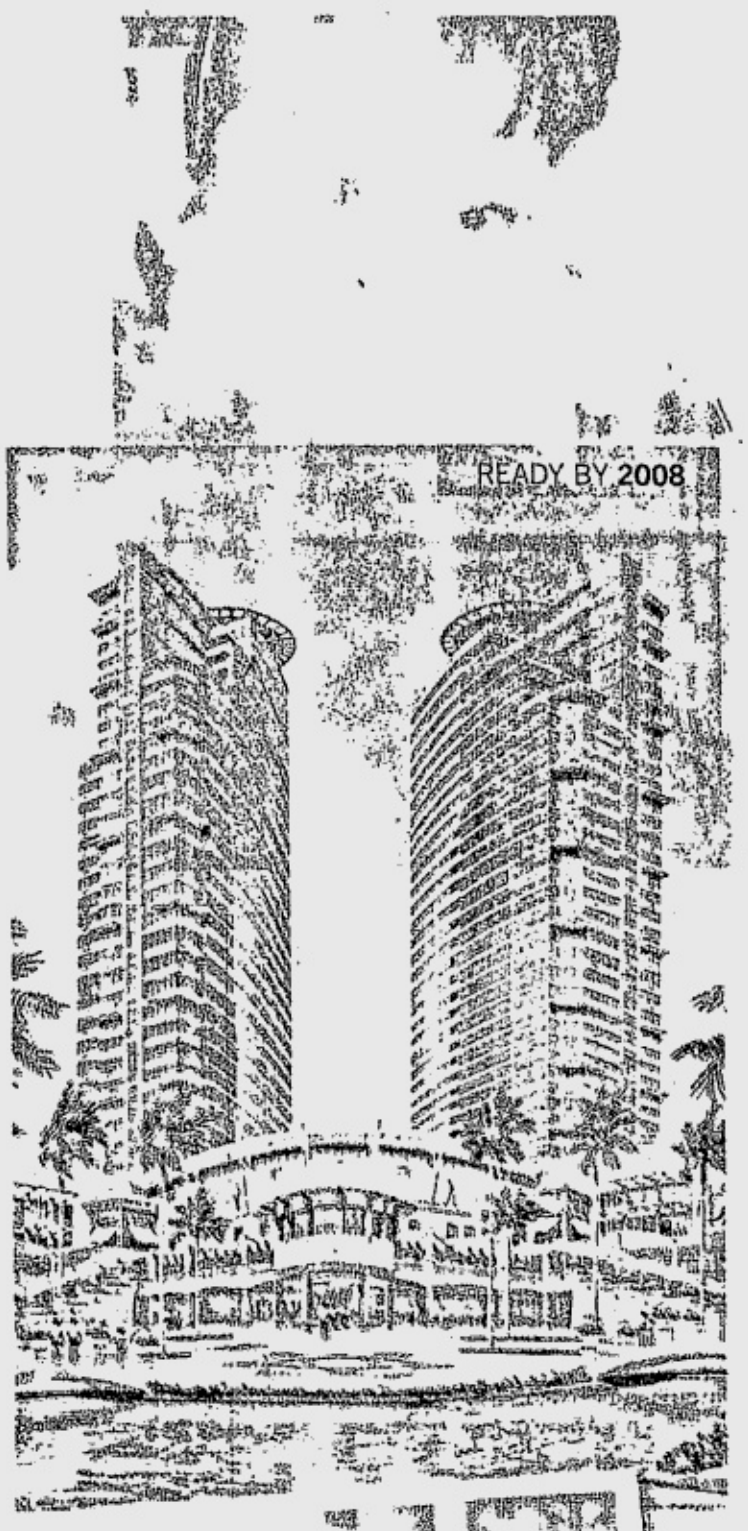

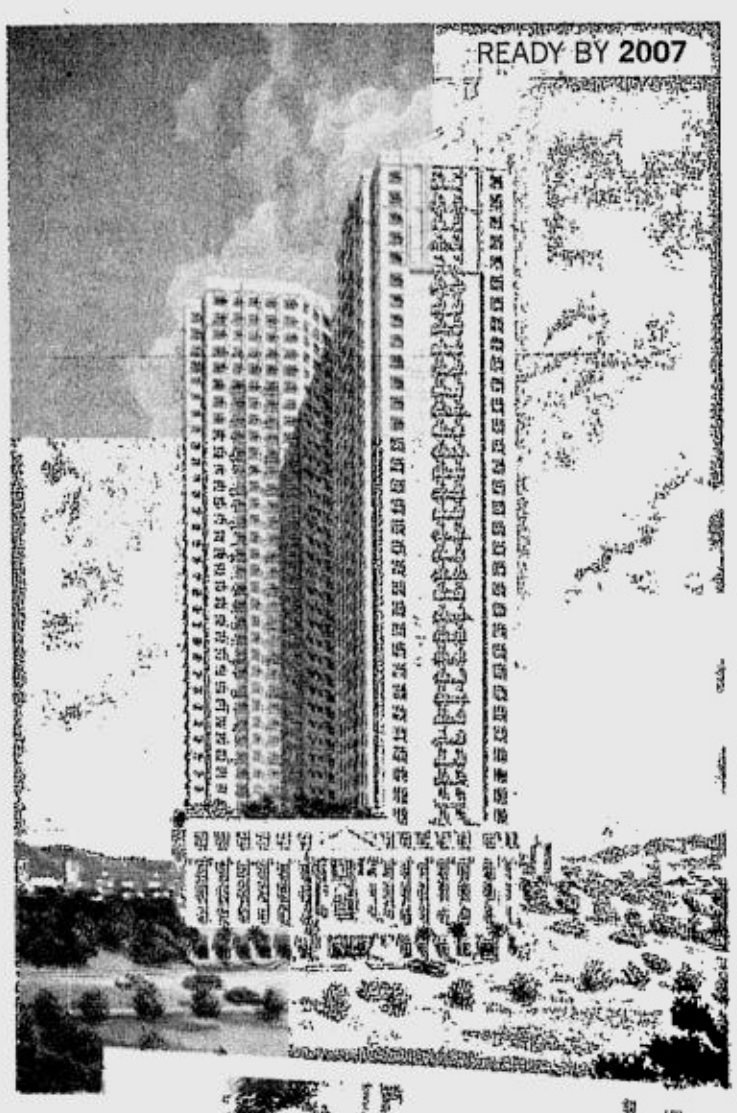

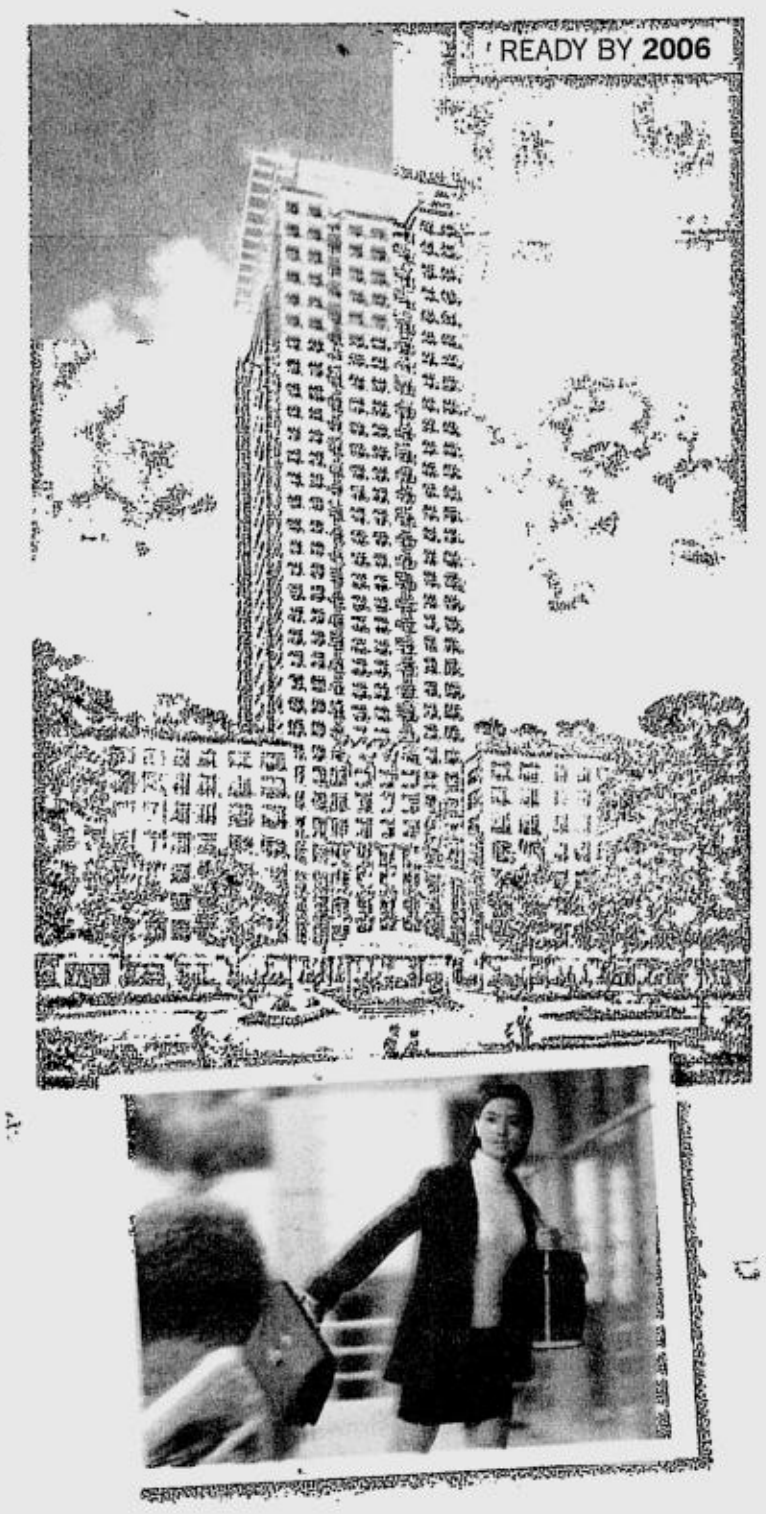

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Editor Louie C. Camino

The case of Mayor Vi's missing project

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By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Marinel R. Cruz

A GROUP of women from Davao del Norte went home disappointed last week after taking a very long trip to Lipa City in Batangas province to observe "Project Star," said to be a recycling center of Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos, only to find out that the project does not exist.

The mayor, also known in show business as "Star for All Seasons," said the visitors from Davao had been "misinformed" because she herself is not aware of any recycling center in Lipa.

The INQUIRER learned that Project Star or Sama-samang Tipunin ang Recyclables, is supposed to be a plastics recycling center which reportedly had given jobs to women in Lipa's Barangay Sabang. But the Davao women found out that it is just a center, with nothing and nobody in sight.

Disgruntled tourists

The visiting women, who said they had been so excited to visit the city of the actress-turned-mayor who is the wife of Sen. Ralph Recto, were members of the Davao del Norte women's council. Their Lipa visit two Sundays ago was supposed to be part of their community research tour, while Davao del Norte's products and culture are at present featured in "Wow Philippines" in Intramuros, Manila.

As it turned out, the women's tour of Lipa, which was supposed to take the whole day, was shortened to only half the day as the visitors were themselves eager to end it.

Mayor Santos said she was not aware of any guided tour scheduled two Sundays ago. She said Lipa City employees do not go to work on Sundays, "unless it's an emergency."

"Sunday is family day," she told INQUIRER Entertainment late last week. "But if ever we do have guided tours on a Sunday, I make sure that I'm around. Past experience tells me that if the people don't see me there, they get mad."

She said a group of women in Lipa wrote her saying they planned to start a recycling program to convert used tetra pack containers into baskets and bags.

"But they are just starting," Mayor Vi said. "They asked me for support a few weeks ago.

"I don't know anything about Project Star," she added. "We don't brag about something we do not have yet."

The INQUIRER learned that Project Star is supposed to be a project of the Women for Environment and Livelihood of Lipa's Social Welfare Office. It was launched last August with a budget of P84,000.

Vilma Mantuano of the city's Social Welfare Office said the Davao group did not coordinate with them and came on a Sunday, a rest day.

"The project site is not in the Sabang center," Mantuano explained.

The INQUIRER called the office of Mayor Santos, only to discover that the office personnel did not know anything about the project.

At the city's cooperative office, the inquiry was met with a hanged receiver or a slammed phone.

The women's group also visited other projects such as the Lumbang agricultural cooperative.

Garbage collection

But according to Panabo City's Women Council secretary Rose Barbarona, their visit was a success. Their only regret was they were not able to visit the Labac Cooperative because it was not accessible.

"I'm not sure who among us complained," said Barbarona. "The tour also included women council representatives of other towns of Davao del Norte. But we didn't complain."

Tess Besa, also of Lipa's Social Welfare Office, said "The collection of garbage is ongoing, but there's no recycling center yet. What we have is a warehouse where we put all the recyclable materials we gather."

Besa said she was surprised to hear that a group of women from Davao expected to be given a tour of the recycling center.

"We might be able to give them details on what we plan to do with the recycling, but not a guided tour," she said. "Now, the mayor is very worried about this miscommunication."

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2 MASTER & COMMANDER
3 SCARY MOVIE 3
4 SCARY MOVIE 3
5 WRONG TURN
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
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8 THE PHONE
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10 THE WISHER
11 MY FIRST ROMANCE
12 LIBERATED

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3 MASTER AND COMMANDER 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
4 WRONG TURN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
5 MR. SUAVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
7 DARK BLUE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
8 SEX SCANDAL 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
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3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:15, 1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30
5 MR. SUAVE - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 10:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00

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6 WRONG TURN
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8 DARK BLUE

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MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
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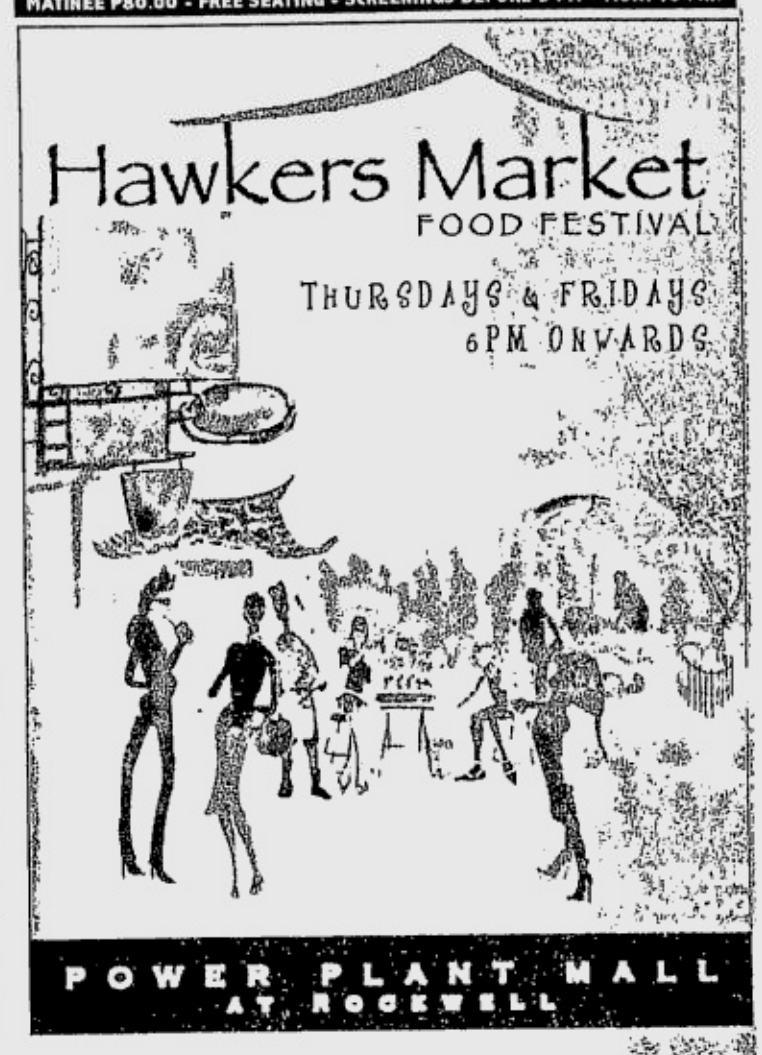

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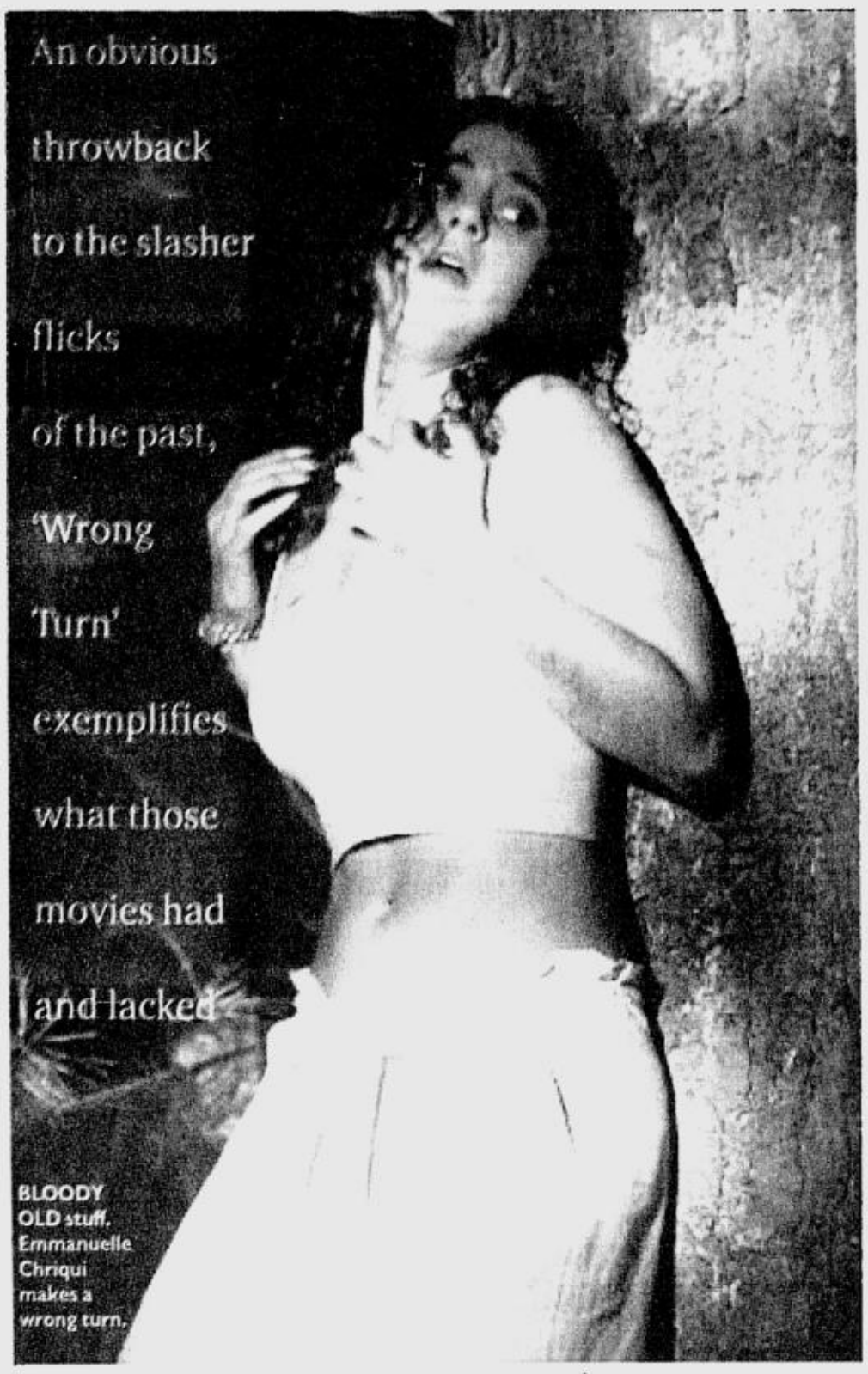


BLOODY OLD stuff. Emmanuelle Chriqui makes a wrong turn.

SLASHER FLICK

Wrong turn

By Ruel S. De Vera

AMERICAN slasher movies are basically bloody cinematic junk food. Despite all the genre's obvious limitations, they continue to be popular, conjuring up creatures such as Leatherface, Michael Myers, Freddy Krueger and Jason Voorhees.

When movies in the 1990s, chief of them the "Scream" trilogy, began effectively deconstructing those same slasher flicks, American movies seemed to have moved on to smarter, sleeker fare.

But apparently, some people still want the bloody old stuff. "Wrong Turn" has been positioned as a movie grown from the DNA of those original movies and not the wink-wink genetic material Hollywood recently churned out. It's as if someone took the technology from "Jurassic Park" and decided to clone old slasher flicks instead, most notably the original "Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

In what passes for the movie's plot, Chris Finn (Desmond Harrington) is in a hurry to get to a job interview on time when he takes a fateful detour into the West Virginia woods where he promptly smacks into a parked vehicle belonging to a bunch of young hikers led by Jessie (Eliza Dushku from "Buffy The Vampire Slayer"). But even as they sort out what to do next, they all find themselves being hunted by a band of cannibalistic inbred mountain men. No, really.

"Wrong Turn" is exactly like those old movies because the attractive young people then begin to forget they have brains and expose themselves to one danger after another. As the body count rises and the audience's collective IQ decreases, it clearly won't take too much to follow the events in "Wrong Turn." It's one of those movies where the question is which, if any, of the silly, well-toned young things (among them Jeremy Sisto and Emmanuelle Chriqui) will make it out of the woods.

REVIEW

Unusual choice

While it lacks any semblance of a compelling plot, "Wrong Turn" is both a gratuitously gory and effective horror movie. The movie's something of an unusual choice for director Rob Schmidt, considering the ambitious and ponderous "Crime and Punishment in Suburbia," Schmidt's 2000 updating of the Fyodor Dostoevsky classic. Here, he fashions a classic scary movie, something meant almost singularly to frighten a movie date. But "Wrong Turn" is so slavishly retro, it's so much like one of those old bloody movies that the audience is left feeling that they've seen it all before.

It's hard not to notice, for example, that the nubile girls just happen to get stuck in the woods and wind up running for their lives in skimpy tank tops. Instead, here is a lot of blood and visible gore in this movie.

From half-consumed corpses to body parts kept in jars, "Wrong Turn" is never shy about the amount of mutilated flesh it can present. Cue the canned screaming.

Perhaps the movie's only real standout element is the terrifying mountain men as visualized by master creature maker Stan Winston. Of course, what else can you expect from the guy who came up with the monster of "Predator," "The Terminator," and "Jurassic Park"? The grizzled, grunting mountain men, almost human, but not quite, dine only on the freshest meat and they like to, uh, get their own cut.

Harrington runs around a lot while trying to think of a way out while Dushku does her usual bit as a strong, brave girl. But the acting is an afterthought in a movie like this.

No breakout acts

It bears remembering that "Halloween" did give us Jaime Lee Curtis as well as Michael Myers, just as "Nightmare on Elm Street" gave us Johnny Depp and Freddy Krueger. But there will be no breakout performances in "Wrong Turn" as even the heavily made-up mountain men seem to be a little bored. Sisto and Dushku, in particular, deserve to be appearing in better stuff.

Anyone who has something against gratuitous violence and gore as well as stupid movies needs to steer clear of this movie.

Conversely, anyone who wants those things can't miss "Wrong Turn." There is a certain bizarre purity and efficiency to the construction of "Wrong Turn." It's a movie so steeped in its hack-and-slash traditions that, Winston's creatures aside, there is absolutely nothing new or innovative in this movie. It's dumb, unoriginal and effectively scary in a disgusting kind of way.

And precisely because of all that, "Wrong Turn" is a perfect example of the modern American slasher movie.

"Wrong Turn" is currently showing in Metro Manila theaters.

Mariah grants a wish

DAVID Ryan Ignacio, 19, is a freshman at the Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga City.

His life has not been easy. His parents separated when Ryan was 12, and his mother struggled to provide for him and his two siblings.

Amid his struggles, Ryan took pleasure in listening to the music of international pop diva Mariah Carey. With a discman and an earphone plugged in his ears, Ryan listens endlessly to Mariah's songs. He also knows everything about his idol.

SHOW TIME

With hardly any spare cash, Ryan still managed to collect all of Mariah's CDs. He's had countless debates with his friends about Mariah. In defending his idol, Ryan even had a big fight with a schoolmate.

But he remained loyal to Mariah and continued to dream that someday, he would get the chance to watch her in concert and meet her face to face.

Ryan's mother encouraged her son to send this wish to GMA 7's "Wish Ko Lang."

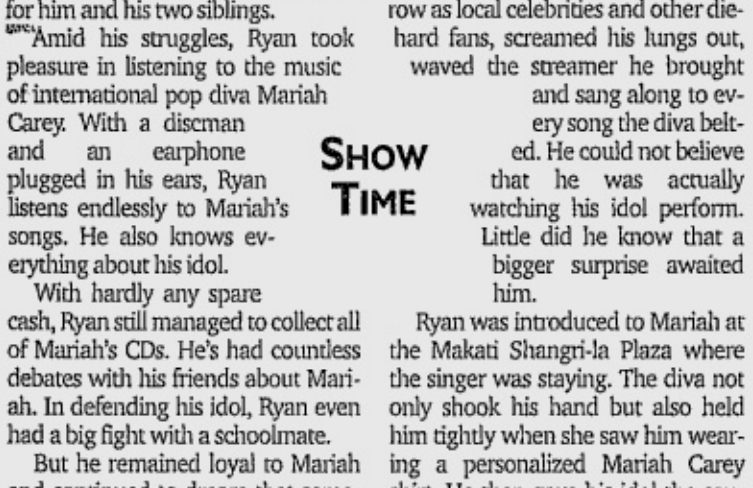
The WKL team and one of his teachers surprised Ryan with a present of a music box. When he opened the box, he found a front-row seat ticket to Mariah's Charmbracelet World Tour concert. He was also given an all-expense paid trip to Manila and an overnight stay at the Linden Suites at Ortigas Center.

On the night of Mariah's concert, Ryan, who was seated on the same row as local celebrities and other die-hard fans, screamed his lungs out, waved the streamer he brought and sang along to every song the diva belted. He could not believe that he was actually watching his idol perform. Little did he know that a bigger surprise awaited him.

Ryan was introduced to Mariah at the Makati Shangri-la Plaza where the singer was staying. The diva not only shook his hand but also held him tightly when she saw him wearing a personalized Mariah Carey shirt. He then gave his idol the souvenirs he had brought from his hometown.

Ryan was the only fan who was able to have a picture taken alone with Mariah. He almost did not want to leave her room, wishing that the happiest moment in his life would go on forever.

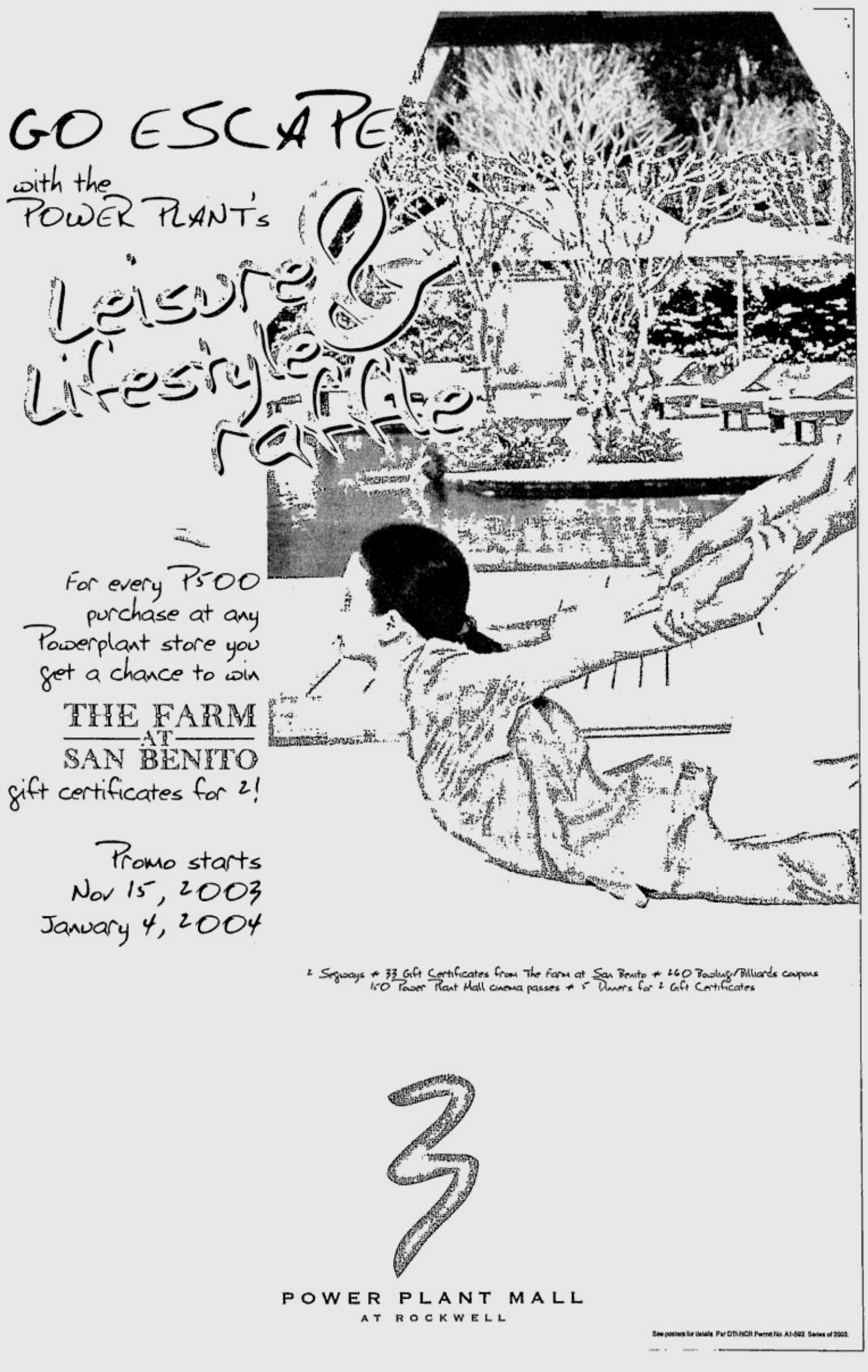
Watch Ryan's story in "Wish Ko Lang" at 4 p.m. this Saturday.



Meet the 'new' Ntwine

THE GROUP now boasts of a new lineup of talents composed of the band's pioneering lead vocalist Melanie Enerva; and promising newcomers Monica Flores (UP Conservatory of Music-3rd Yr. Voice Major), Jason Balibay (a certified engineering graduate from DLSU who sings a la Babyface, R Kelly and Michael Jackson) and 18-year old Russel Figueroa whose vocal range and style compare to Michael Bolton's and Brian McKnight's. The band's talented back-up musicians are Christian Bartolome (keyboards), Jay Carmelotes (lead guitar), Mong Duque (bass-not in photo) and Jonard Bolor(drums/percussions).

Ntwine's debut single will be released by Viva Records in the first quarter of next year. The group can be seen at The Conservatory-Peninsula Manila (Tuesdays), Virgin Cafe Morato (Wednesday), The Craic Irish Pub, Jupiter St., Makati (Friday-Dec 21), Strumm's Jupiter Street, Makati (Saturday-Dec 22). Ntwine is managed by Newland Entertainment Production (Telefax: 8180750 or cell phone: 0917-5376165).



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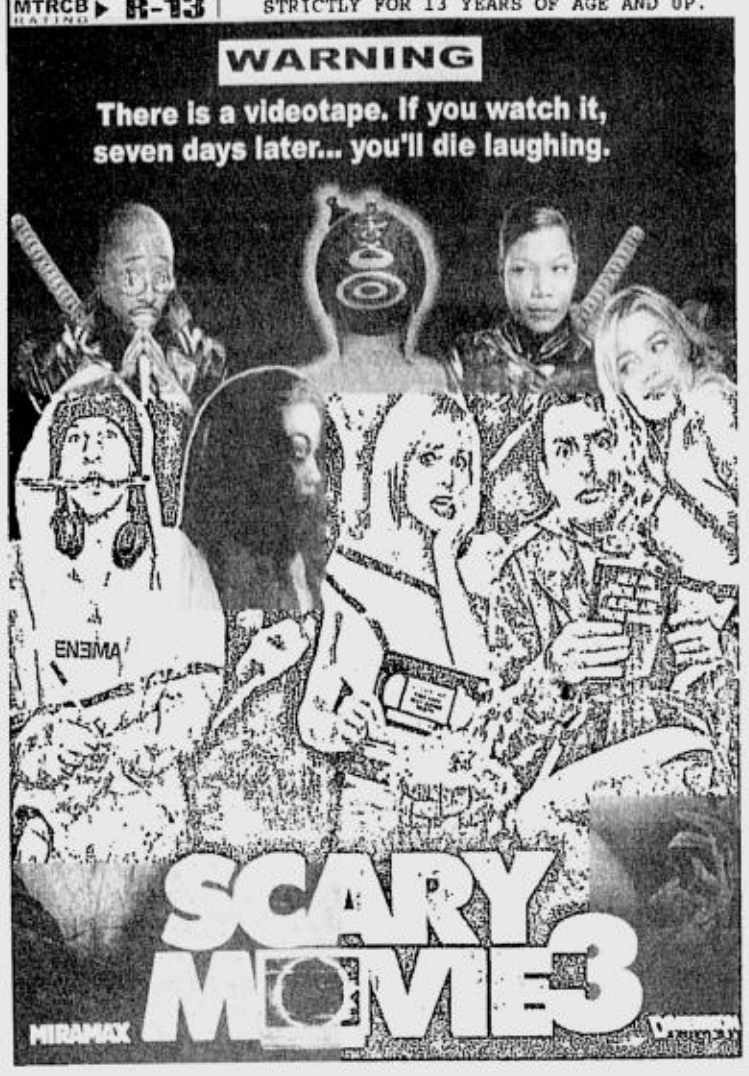

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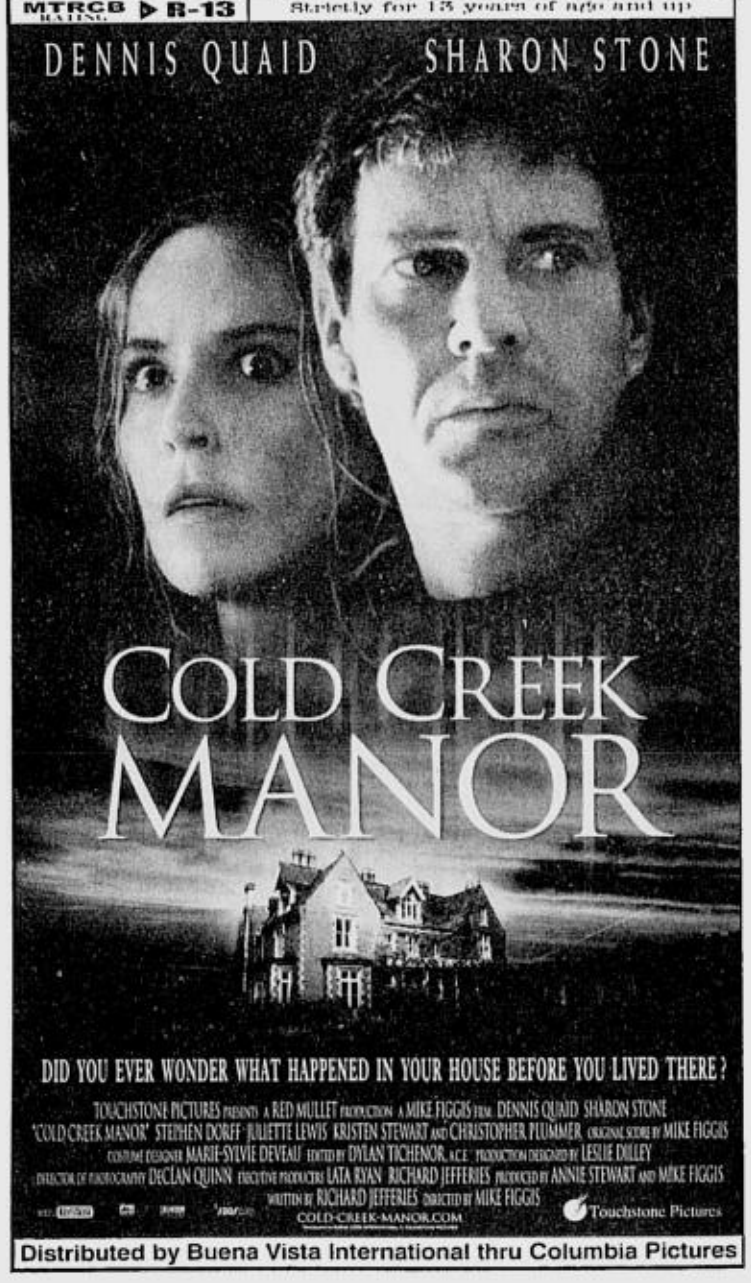

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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY 'LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX SCANDAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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A	LIBERATED
B	
C	

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CINEMA-2	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-3	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-6	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-7	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE 3
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-15	MR. SUAVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-1	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-2	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-4	IDENTITY

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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2 MASTER AND COMMANDER	2 MR. SUAVE	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 2:45, 5:40, 8:35, 11:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 2:45, 5:40, 8:35, 11:30	2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DARK BLUE 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	3 MR. SUAVE
4 MR. SUAVE	4 DRUMLINE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MR. SUAVE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	4 MASTER AND COMMANDER
	5 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
	6 MASTER AND COMMANDER			
	7 WRONG TURN			

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MOVIE GUIDE

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2 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER & COMMANDER
6 (SDDS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	MR. SUAVE
9	MR. SUAVE
10	WISHER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana Cinema 123 (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	MR. SUAVE
2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3	SEX SCANDAL

stARmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	MATRIX REVOLUTION
2	MR. SUAVE
3	SEX SCANDAL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER & COMMANDER
5	LIBERATED

Metropolis Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	LIBERATED
2	SEX SCANDAL
3	SCARY MOVIE-3
4	MR. SUAVE
5	MATRIX REVOLUTION
6	MASTER & COMMANDER

Star Mall www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	MR. SUAVE
2	MAPANUKSO

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

MASTER & COMMANDER

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MATRIX REVOLUTION
2	MY BOSS DAUGTHER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	MR. SUAVE
2	
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Gotesco Cinema

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	SEX SCANDAL
6	MR. SUAVE
7 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
9 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER

Gotesco Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	SEX SCANDAL
2	MR. SUAVE
3	MR. SUAVE
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	LIBERATED
9	MAPANUKSO

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0082

1	SEX SCANDAL
2 (SDDS)	WRONG TURN
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
4 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	LIBERATED
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	SEX SCANDAL
5 (SDDS)	MASTER & COMMANDER

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEX SCANDAL
Lords	SEX SCANDAL
Jennet	RESERVE

Marrethlaf Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MR. SUAVE
2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3	SEX SCANDAL
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto — SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	SEX SCANDAL
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	MR. SUAVE
5	SCARY MOVIE-3

FRC Cinema (Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MR. SUAVE
2	SEX SCANDAL

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1	MR. SUAVE
2	SEX SCANDAL
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE 3
6	LIBERATED
7	WRONG TURN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

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2	RESERVE

Cinema 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 637-0926

1	MAPANUKSO
2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	UP TOWN GIRL
2 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MR. SUAVE
2 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	UP TOWN GIRL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	UNDERWORLD
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown (Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	MR. SUAVE
2	LIBERATED
3 (DOLBY)	THE PHONE
4 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION

Magic Star Cinema (Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
2 (SDDS)	LIBERATED
3	MR. SUAVE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MR. SUAVE
2	TEMPTING HEART
3 (DTS)	MAPANUKSO
4	INDECENT BEHAVIOR

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	MAPANUKSO
5	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3	

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTION

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	IDENTITY
2	MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4 (DOLBY)	MR. SUAVE

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LIBERATED
2	MR. SUAVE
3	

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LIBERATED
2	THE SUSPECT
3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	BELPHEGOR

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	LIBERATED

Cine Nepo Mall (Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

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2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
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Hanks, Cruise and Gibson at the top

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHO are the most popular stars in the movies this year? Topping the box-office competition is the eminently durable **Tom Hanks**, whose recent hits include "Road to Perdition" and "Catch Me If You Can."

It's tough holding on to the number one slot in Hollywood, but Hanks has managed to fend off the rest of the "killer" pack by judiciously choosing to act in popular and significant films. No wonder his asking price per project is the top industry fee of $25 million —plus additional contractual perks and residuals.

Also earning $25 million per movie is **Tom Cruise**, who clicked with film fans with "Minority Report," and has another potential blockbuster in "The Last Samurai," which should further boost his stock next year.

Completing the troika of top male stars is **Mel Gibson**, whose latest film, "Signs," not only became a hit, but has been cited as his biggest blockbuster to date.

What plus points do these three film superstars have in common? Aside from the talent, charisma, versatility, determination and work ethic that have made them stand out, they are producers and directors in their own right.

This means that they have been able to conceptualize special projects for themselves, unlike other stars who have to make do with the offers they get from producers.

The other hats they wear give Hanks, Cruise and Gibson a big edge over the competition, and help account for the top slots they hold up to this day.

Note that Hanks and Gibson are getting to look rather long in the tooth, which usually erodes stars' popularity, especially with the generally young movie audience these days. But they have managed to remain on top despite the influx of many younger stars—an impressive achievement in this day and age.

Question: Why are the top three stars all male? This state of affairs has troubled female stars, who feel that, despite its avowals of equal opportunity and employment, Hollywood generally comes up with products that condition viewers to prefer male leads over their female counterparts.

Answer: Male protagonists topbill action-adventure movies, which are bigger productions that usually earn more at the box office. On the other hand, some female stars are still limited to decorative and sexy roles, or dramas for an audience made up largely of women.

That's why actresses have been campaigning for less decorative roles and stereotyping in casting, with some success. But a lot still needs to be done in this regard before women can more consistently top the box-office race.

It's important to point out that this wasn't always the case. There was a time when child star **Shirley Temple**'s movies consistently made the most money, and other top female stars like **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Judy Garland** and **Mary Pickford** also made significant inroads into traditional male "supremacy" in the movie world.

HANKS: Fending off the rest of the 'killer' pack

Currently, female stars aren't doing too badly, with **Julia Roberts** occupying fourth position. And two other female talents, **Nicole Kidman** and **Reese Witherspoon**, are in Film Year 2003's Top 10 list of most popular movie stars.

Three out of 10 isn't bad; still, work obviously needs to be done—but that's another story.

'Out of Time'

EVA Mendes and **Denzel Washington** co-star for the second time (after "Training Day") in the new suspense thriller, "Out of Time." Washington is Matt Lee Whitlock, small-town cop who has an affair with a woman (**Sanaa Lathan**) who's married to an abusive NFL quarterback, Chris Harrison (**Dean Cain**), and falls so much in love with her that he thinks that a criminal act will enable them to run away together.

Mendes plays Alex, a cop and Whitlock's estranged wife, who's assigned to investigate a double murder committed in the small town where Whitlock is the chief of police. As the investigation goes full swing, Whitlock finds himself in a race against time—and Alex—to fix the mistake he's committed before it ruins his life forever.

'Designing Women'

ONGOING until Nov. 21 at Festival Supermall in Alabang is an interior design and furniture exhibit, My Home Magazine's "Designing Women," at C-Square, Level 4. Designers featured are **Ana Margarita Cuervo**, **Jenny Lozada**, **Minette Fajardo** and **Margie Escolin**.

Retro nights

RETRO gis ar Bykes Café in Makati (Chino Roces Ave. corner Sabio St.): Tuesdays, the Salsa Filipinas Foundation dance group headed by **Eddie Rocha**. Wednesdays, Cool Change. Thursdays, DJ Luis playing swing hits of the '70s, '80s and '90s. Fridays, Rhythm and Babes. Saturdays, Replay Band. Call 750-0622.

DIRECTOR Portes (right) with actor Bembol Roco

Critics group honors '90s Pinoy cinema

SHOW TIME

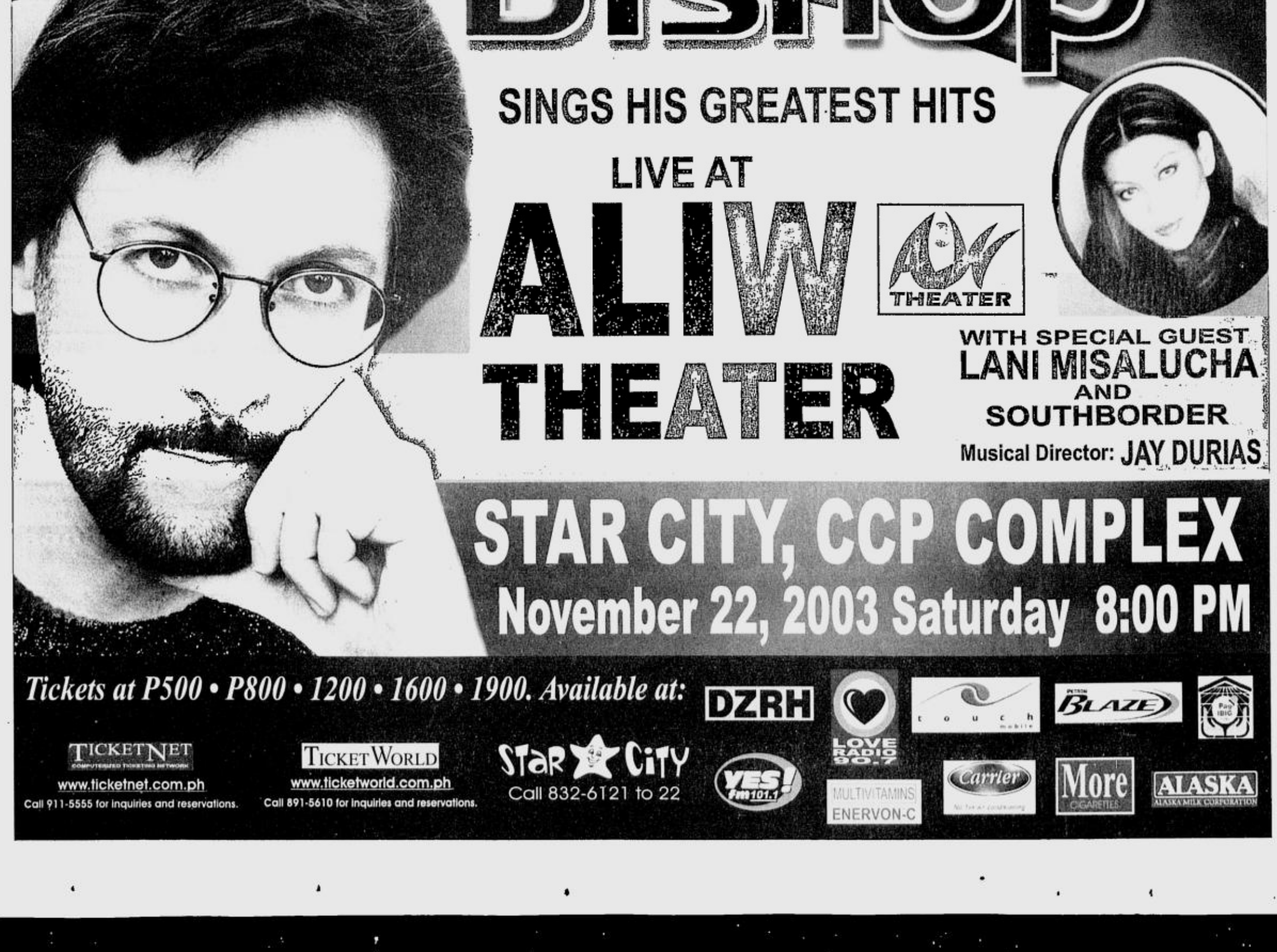
THE YOUNG Critics Circle, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), pays tribute to Philippine cinema in the 1990s with a testimonial reunion on at 7 p.m. today at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

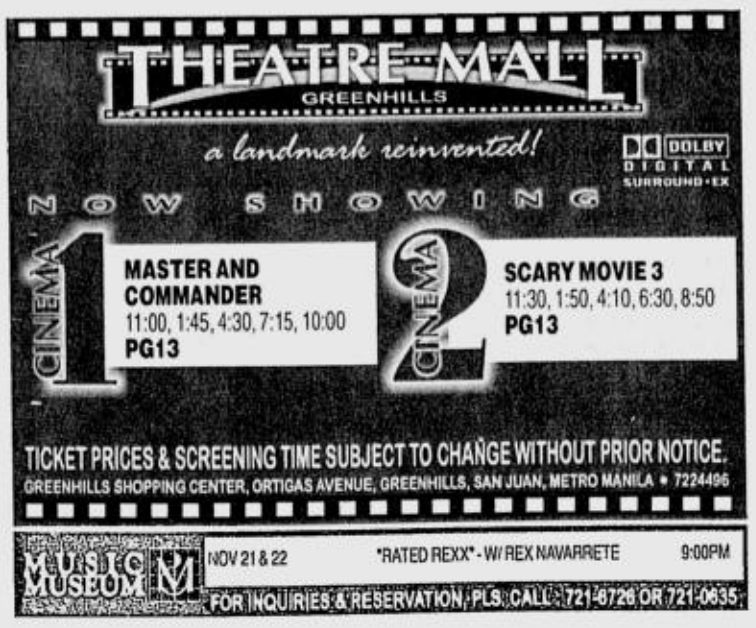
During the affair, the YCC will honor the contributions of directors such as National Artist Lino Brocka, Gil Portes, Carlos Siguñon-Reyna, Jose Javier Reyes, Joey Romero, Joel Lamangan, Ike Jarlego Jr., Antonio Jose Perez, Chito Roño, and Mario O'Hara; performers Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, Maricel Soriano, Elizabeth Oropesa, Christopher de Leon, Aga Muhlach, and Patrick Garcia; screenwriters Ricardo Lee, Raquel Villavicencio, Jose Dalisay, Emmanuel Borlaza, Lualhati Bautista, and Amado Lacuesta; and other movie artists.

The book "Sampung Taong Sine, Philippine Cinema 1990-1999," authored by YCC members and published by the NCCA, will also be launched.

Before the ceremony, a symposium will be held at 2 p.m. at the Silangan Hall of the CCP.

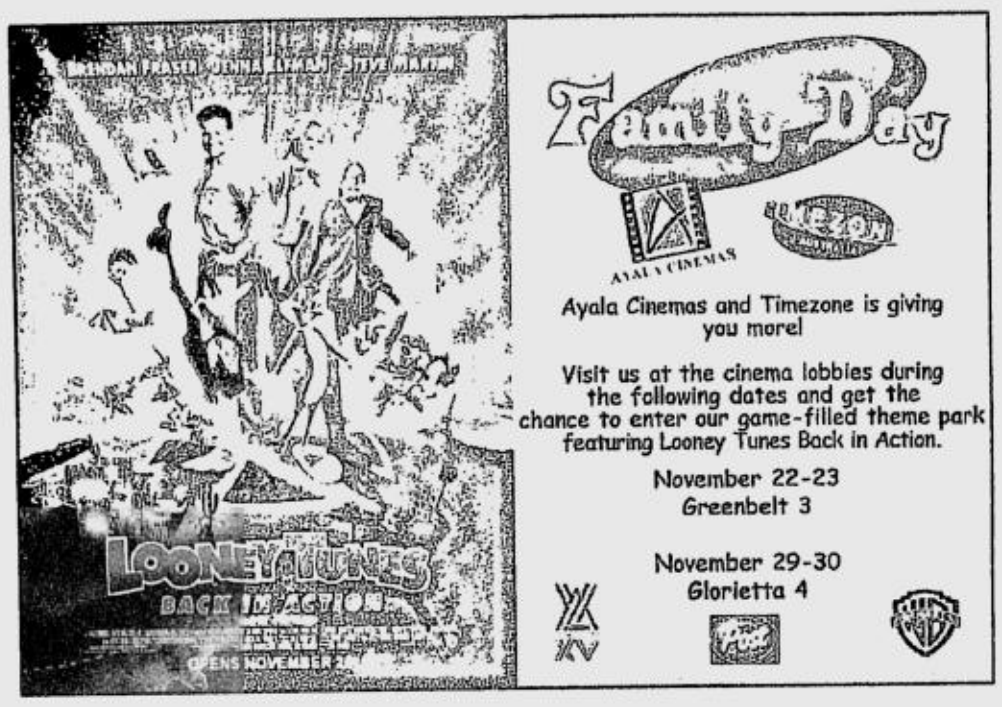
Speakers include filmmaker Nick Deocampo, critic Justino Dormiendo, film teacher Grace Javier-Alfonso, entertainment journalist Boy Villasanta, and actress Cherie Pie Picache.

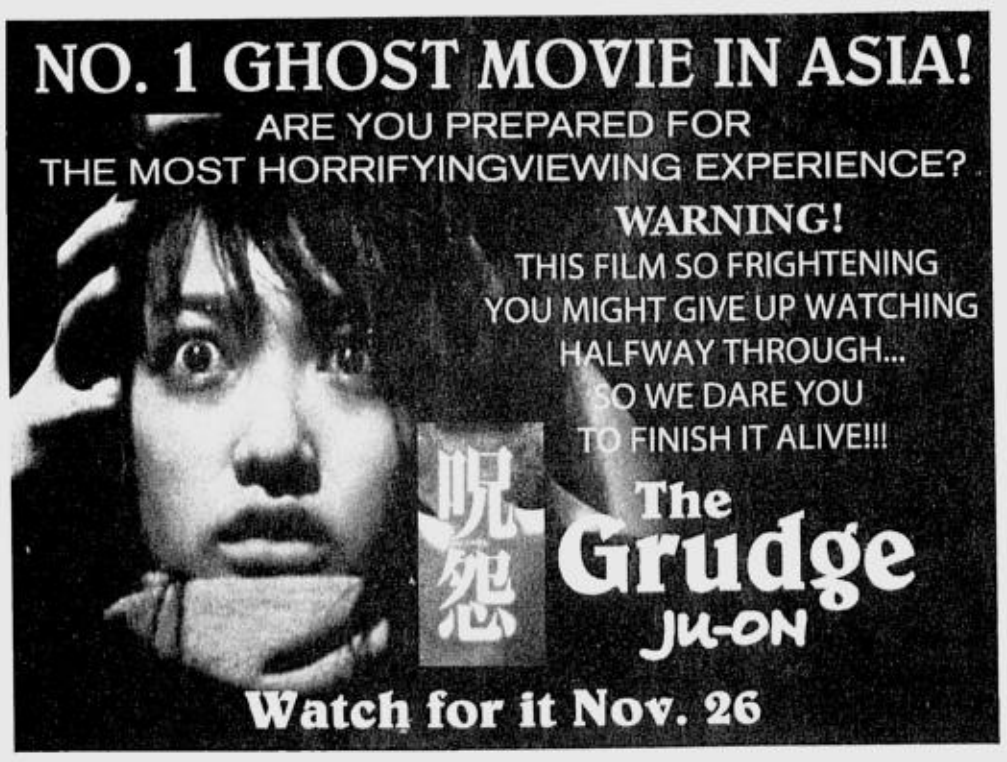


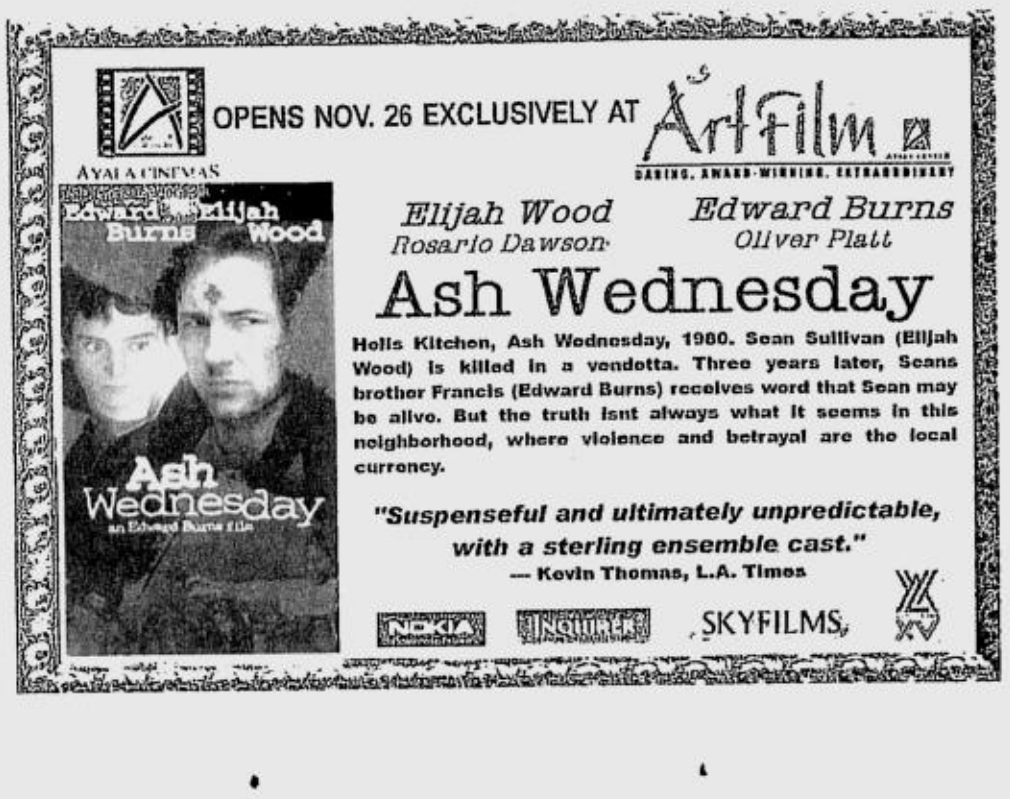


JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

POP PRINCES
INTERNATIONAL pop singer Mandy Moore will sign autographs and greet her fans at Penshoppe's Megamall on Saturday. Moore performed in her first Manila concert at the Araneta Colesium on Thursday.







Golden Globe award for Douglas

LOS ANGELES— Hollywood star Michael Douglas is to receive a prestigious lifetime achievement award from the organizers of the Golden Globe Awards, the same gong his father Kirk Douglas won 35 years ago.

Douglas, 59, will pick up the Cecil B. DeMille Award from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, making him the first-ever second-generation recipient of the honor, the association said Monday.

The organization voted to bestow the honor on Douglas for his "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field" at the 61st annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony on Jan. 25.

Douglas's famous father, the star of such classics as "Spartacus," won the same award at the 1968 Golden Globes, seen by many as the second most high-profile awards show in Hollywood after the Oscars.

Other recipients of the Cecil B. DeMille Award include actors Gene Hackman, Harrison Ford, Al Pacino, Barbra Streisand, Jack Nicholson, Shirley MacLaine, Dustin Hoffman, Sean Connery and Sophia Loren.

Douglas won the best actor Oscar for 1987's "Wall Street," and one as producer of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," in 1975. He also won Golden Globes for the same performance and production.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association also announced Monday that Lily Costner, the 17-year-old daughter of actor-director Kevin Costner, had been chosen as "Miss Golden Globe."

The young woman chosen annually to assist during the awards show is traditionally the daughter of a well-known celebrity.

"This will be a special night for me, knowing how carefully she has thought about this and come to the decision on her own," Kevin Costner said. *AFP*

DOUGLAS

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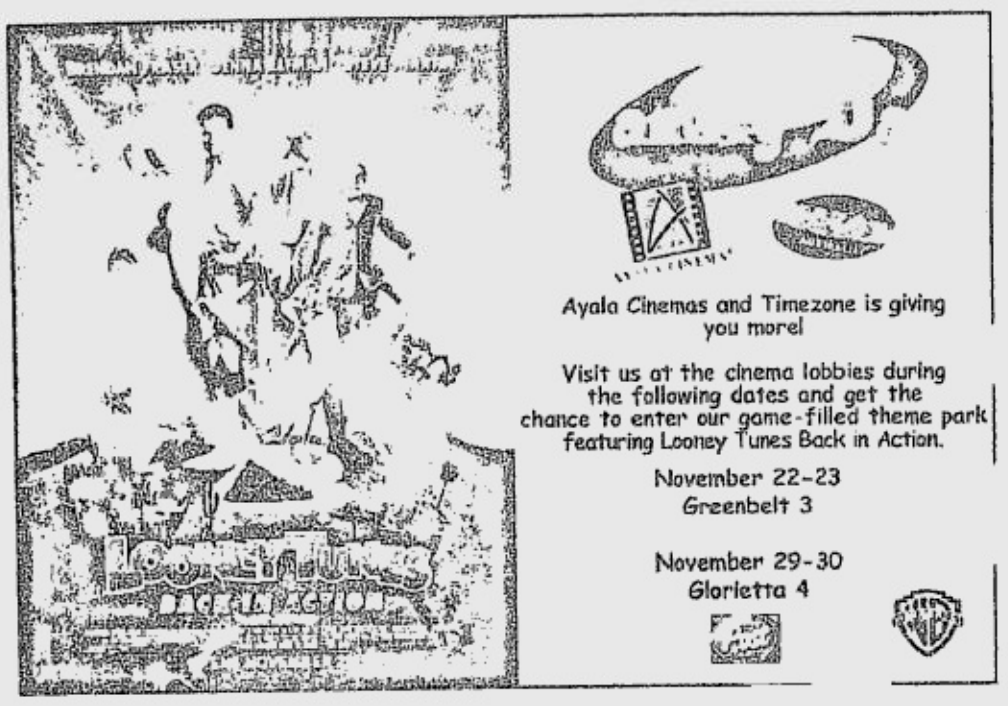

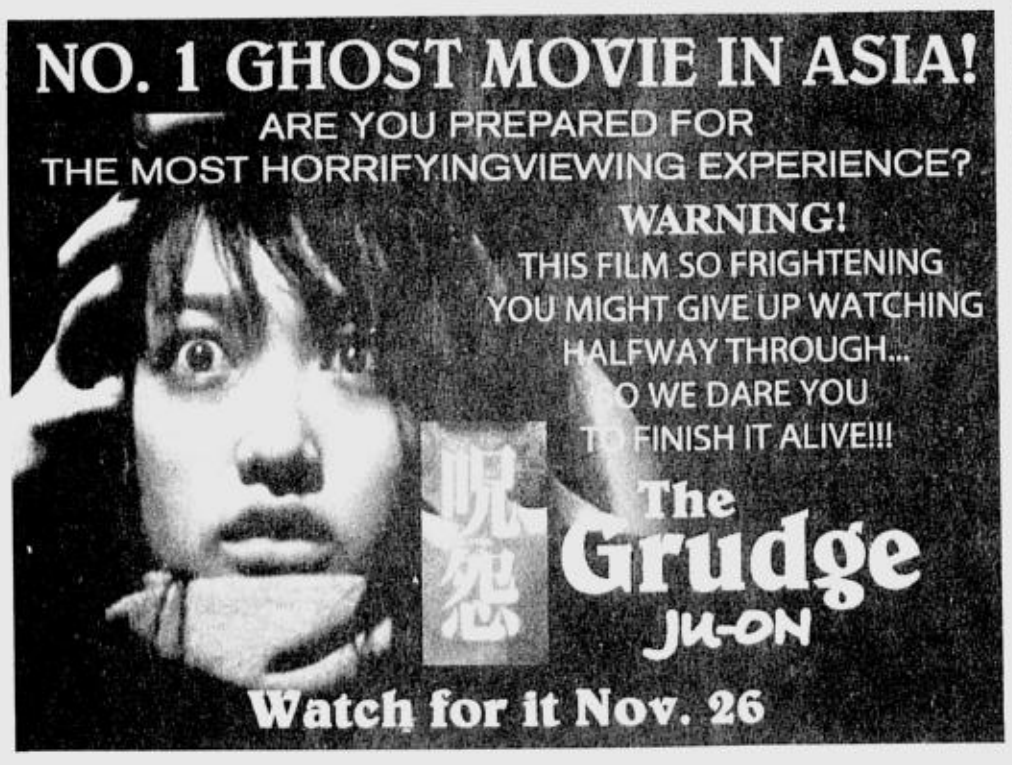

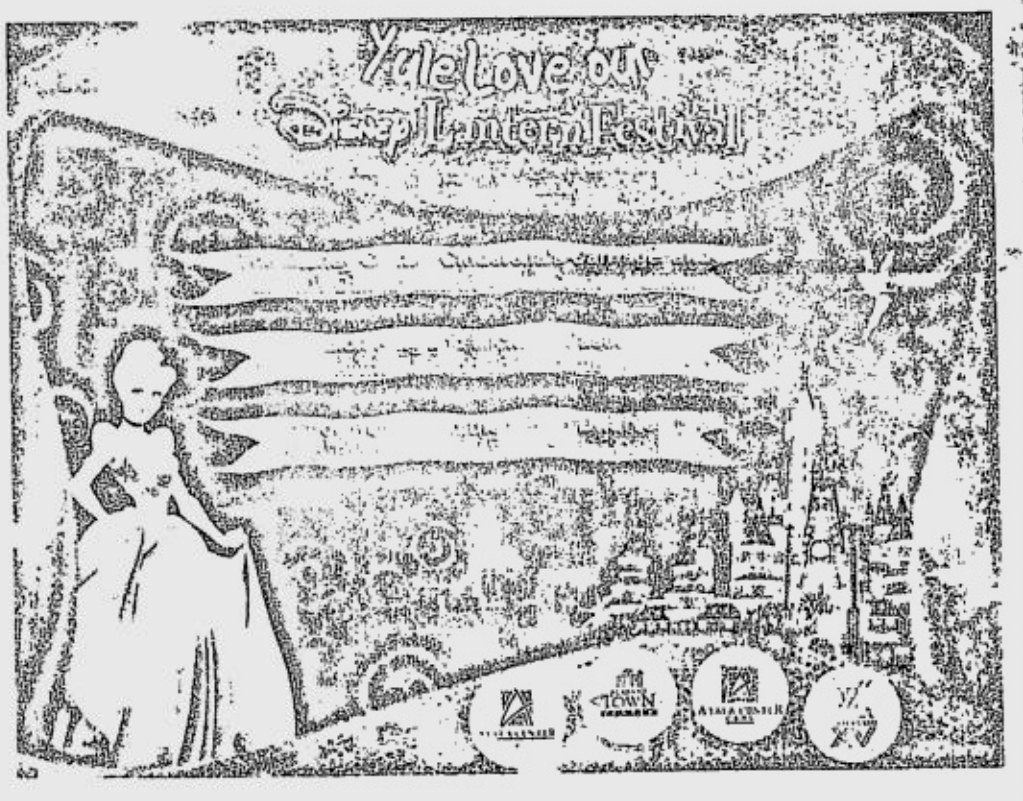

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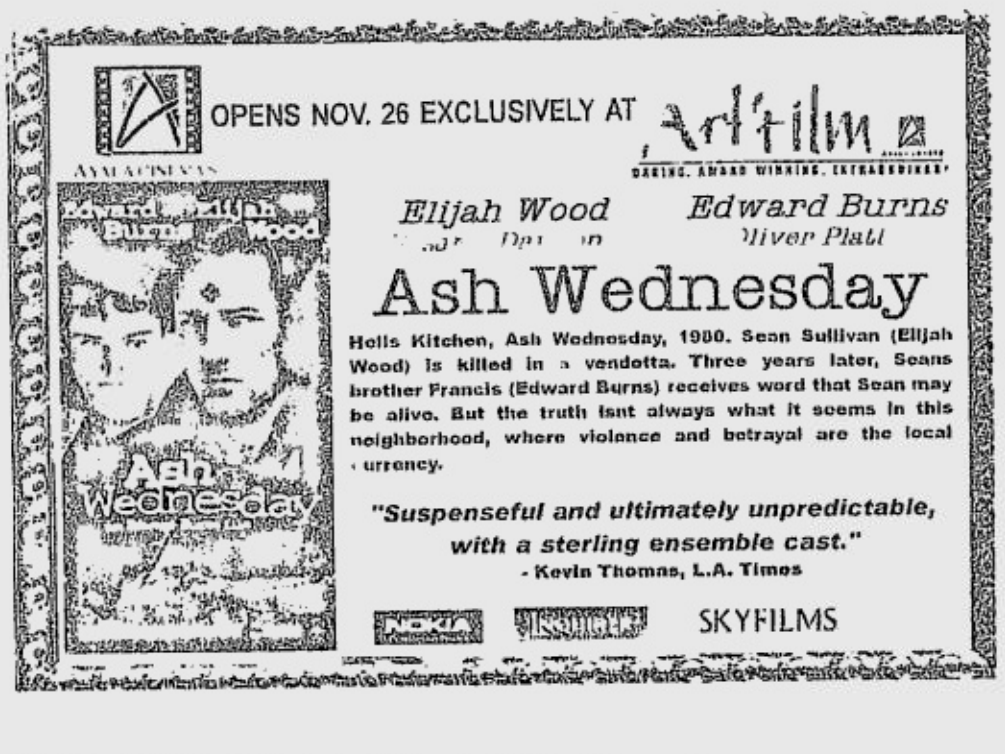

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Terminator ends California car tax

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Setting a goal of no less than staging a "miracle" in California politics, action movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in as governor on Monday and immediately rescinded $4 billion in state taxes.

Replacing the unpopular Democrat Gray Davis whom he ousted in a recall last month, Schwarzenegger ended a widely criticized hike in the state's car tax in his first act as the 38th governor of the nation's most populous state.

In a 12-minute inaugural speech outside the capitol frequently interrupted by applause, Schwarzenegger said his election last month was "the people's veto for politics as usual."

"Today is a new day in California," he told an audience of about 7,500 invited guests, including four past California governors, Hollywood celebrities and foreign dignitaries. "I will not rest until our fiscal house is in order." Citing the drafting of the US Constitution in 1787 as the "Miracle of Philadelphia," Schwarzenegger called for similar action in California. "Now the members of the legislature and I must bring about the 'Miracle of Sacramento,'" he said in reference to the California capital.

The "Terminator" star and former bodybuilder was joined by his four children, wife Maria, who is a niece of slain President John F. Kennedy, and a number of the Kennedy clan including JFK's daughter Caroline Kennedy.

Outgoing Governor Davis watched with a frozen smile for much of Schwarzenegger speech after becoming only the second governor in US history to be ousted in a recall vote.

Schwarzenegger, 56, long known for a superstar ego, said in a later lunch speech that his entry into politics marked a new outlook of giving back to society.

"When I first came over to this country, I only thought about what could I get? How can I become the richest guy, how can I climb up the ladder of show business, how can I become the most muscular man in America and the world?" he said.

"Then over time we have to change," he said. "To me it became more important to reach out and to help." His inaugural address speech drew heavily on his past both as an immigrant and a bodybuilder who came to the United States with nothing but ambition and determination.

"It's no secret I'm a newcomer to politics. I realize I was elected on faith and hope. And I feel a great responsibility —not to let the people down," he said.

Schwarzenegger faces tough economic problems, including a projected budget deficit of potentially more than $20 billion over two years. *Reuters*

Holiday activities at Star malls

THE STAR Group of Malls kicks off the holiday season with chess tournaments, livelihood activities, celebrity mall tours, Christmas Tree lighting, a three-day pre-Christmas mall-wide sales, kiddie activities, and a search for a child star and pop star.

The Mandaluyong City Chess Club will hold chess tournaments on Nov. 23 at the 3rd Level Foodstrip of Star Mall.

Join the livelihood seminar "Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Kaalaman" today at the 4th level Trade Hall of Metropolis Star Alabang. Winnie Cordero and Danny Bravo will give cooking and food processing lessons.

On Nov. 30, "Click's" Angel Locsin and Railey Valeroso will perform at the 4th level Trade Hall of Metropolis Star Alabang. Show will start 3 p.m.

The Muntinlupa City government's singing contest dubbed "Student Pop: Search for a Pop Star" will also be held at the 4th level Trade Hall on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Children who are 8 years old or below can join the Kiddie Star Showdown at Starmall every Saturday at the 3rd level Foodstrip. Winners will win as much as P7,000 cash and gift packs from sponsors.

Get application forms at the Elephant Exhibit and Purple Blue Telecom at the 3rd level of Starmall. For more information, call 724-4992.

From Nov. 28 to 30, shoppers can enjoy as much as 50-percent discount in the early Christmas sale at Starmall, Metropolis Star Alabang and MStar Las Piñas.

On Nov. 30, Starmall Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard will hold "Nooda Crash Mix and Shake" Mall Tour.

SHOW TIME

IBONG ADARNA
Professional Production presents "Ibong Adarna," a stage play, at the Hospicio de San Jose today at 5 p.m. Sherwin Ordoñez, Gayle Valencia and Champagne Morales lead the play along with veteran stage actors Redjie Jimenez, Lucy Valenzuela, Grace Villablanca and Adrian Ramirez, with the PUP Bagong Himig headed by Leo Salvador Landicho. The show is directed by Roni Bertubin and sponsored by Friends of PRO.

Talent search

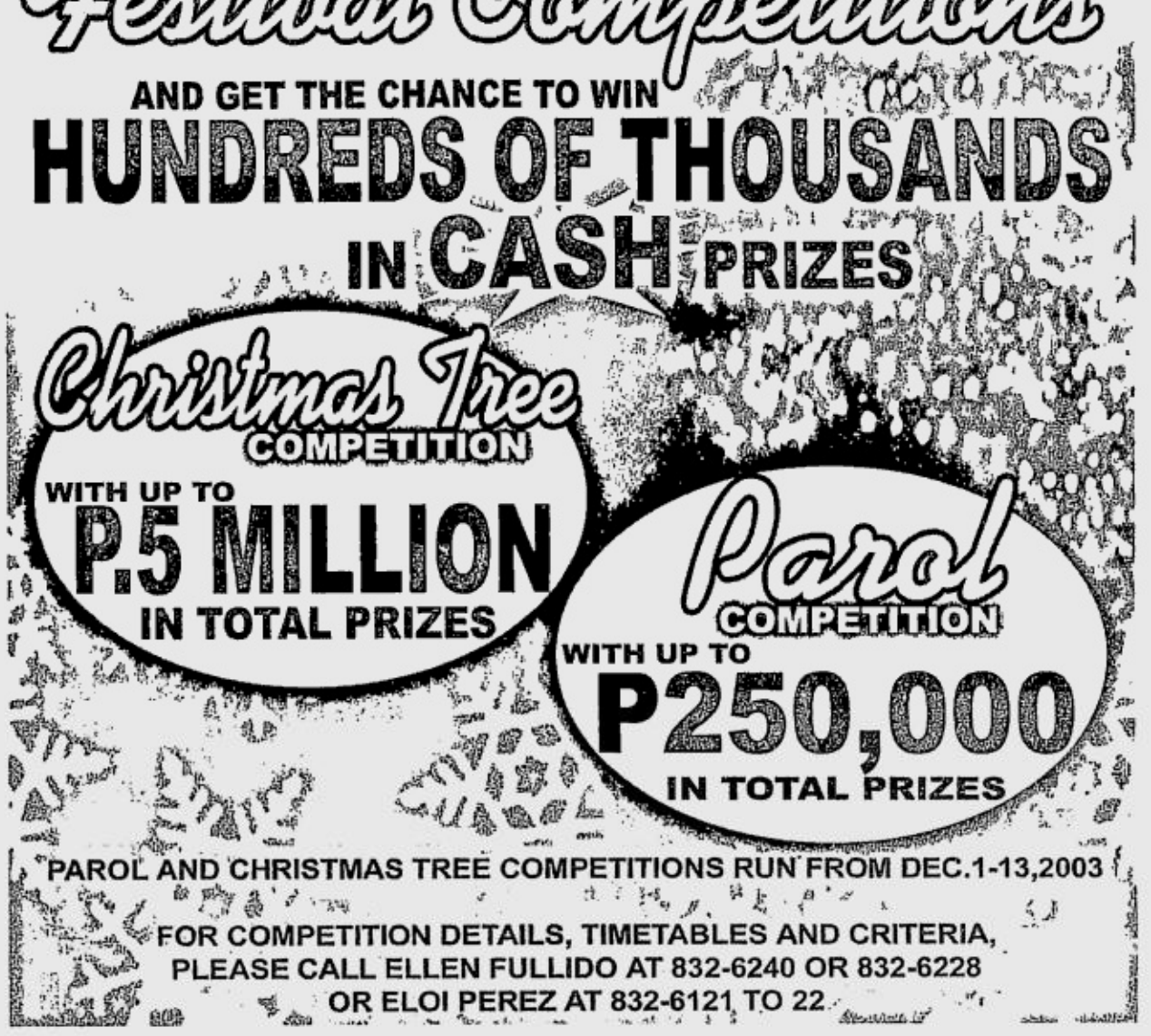
THE AMUSEMENT and recreation center GameworX, together with 96.3 WRock FM, has launched "Acoustic Lite Rock" band competition.

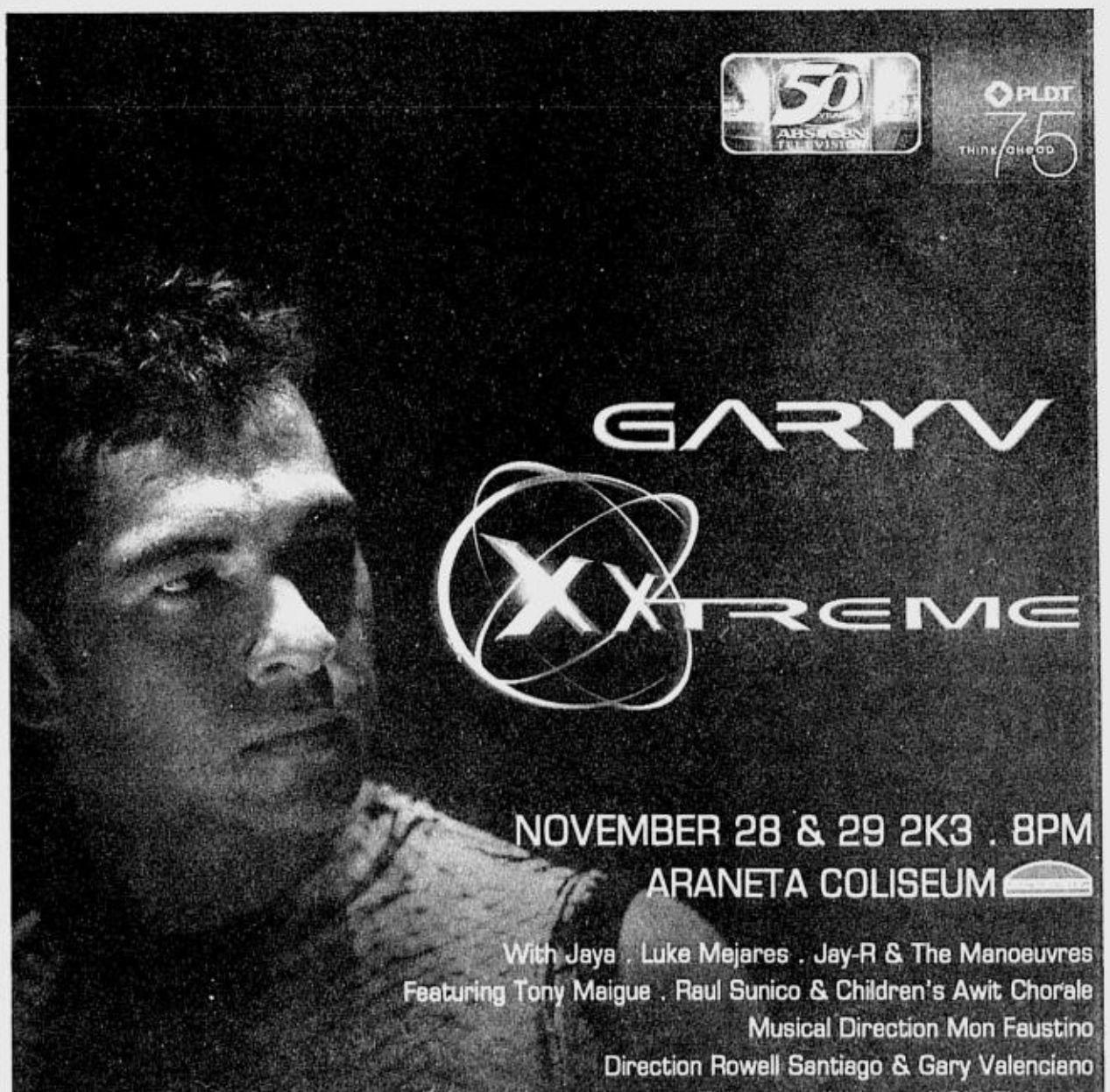
The event is open to all professional and amateur bands with no current recording contract. The elimination rounds will run until Dec. 4, 2003.

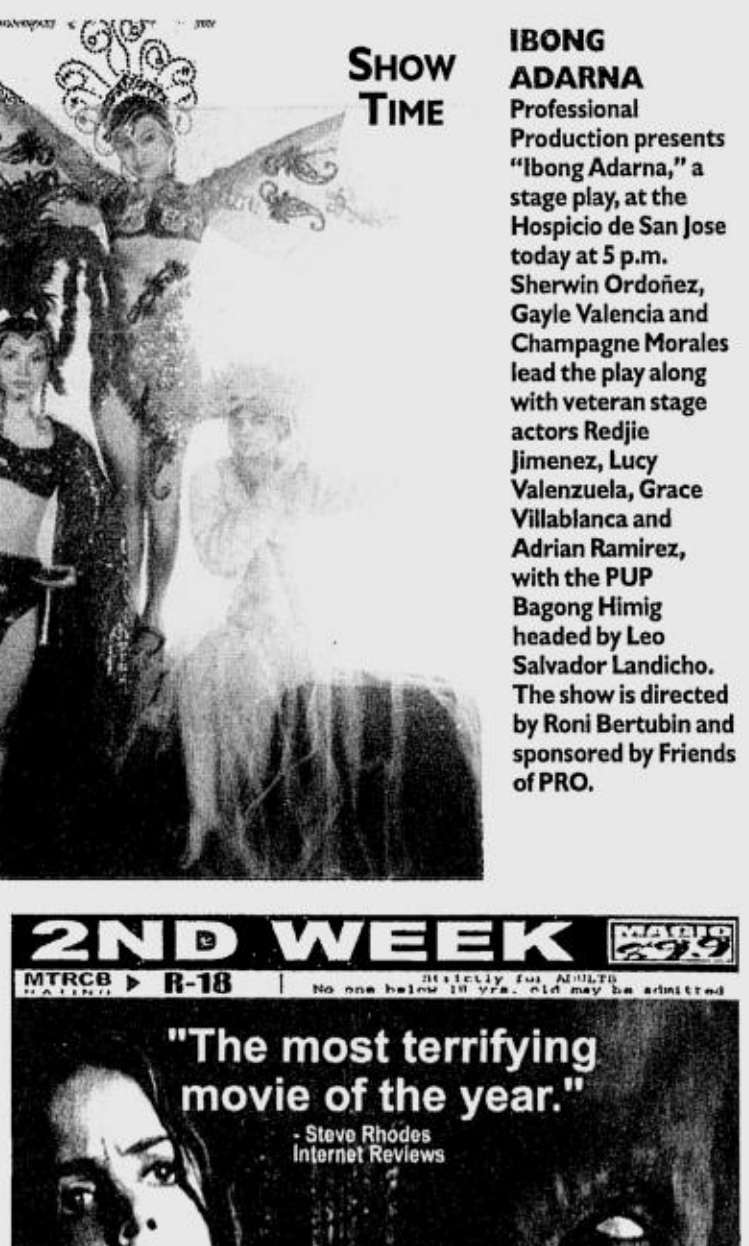
Cash and prizes worth P100,000 are at stake.

The winning group will receive P30,000 worth of cash and prizes, the 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up will get P20,000 and P10,000 of cash and prizes, respectively.

For more information, call GameworX at 850-3551 and 850-3555 to 58 or visit their website at www.gameworx.com.







E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

City wants porn-based film stopped

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE CINEMA run of the bold movie "Sex Scandal," which is now showing in SM theaters in Metro Manila, might be cut short after the Dumaguete City Council asked the city government to take legal steps to stop its showing.

In a privilege speech during a council's meeting last week, Vice Mayor William Ablong said the movie, which was partly based on the pornographic video called "Dumaguete Sex Scandal," could taint the image of Dumaguete as a university town.

If the film's showing is not stopped, the vice mayor said moviegoers might think of "Dumaguete as a city where cheap sex can be had, and where people find pleasure in video-taping sexual activities."

"We have been trying to project an image of a wholesome and morally upright environment in Dumaguete as a foundation for peace, progress and development," Ablong said.

Bold starlets Allen Dizon, JP Obligacion, Gerald Lauron, Danna Garcel and Anne Borromeo star in "Sex Scandal," which was produced by Sacramento Films and released through Angora Films.

Quoting a national tabloid, Ablong said the film, directed by Francis Posadas, was based on the sexual trysts of three prominent women from prominent families in Dumaguete with two young men.

The trysts supposedly happened in Cebu and Dumaguete and were captured on video, which was later edited into an hour-long porn movie.

Scenes from the video had even made it to porn sites on the Internet.

The video was supposedly taken secretly inside the room of a rest house in Barangay Daro, Dumaguete City.

The rest house is owned by Dumaguete-based businessman and contractor Jonathan Lim, who allegedly ordered the filming of the sexual trysts of the victims.

Lim and his alleged cohorts Nicholas Siloterio and Noel Banagodos are now facing a complaint filed by the city government before the city prosecutor's office.

Copies of the amateur video which featured the sexual trysts of the victims inside a motel room were also being sold in Cebu.

Ablong said he wondered why the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board approved the showing of the film.

Councilor Manuel Nelson Patrimonio suggested that the city government should ask the help of the church and religious organizations in stopping the showing of the film.

Ablong also said government officials, women's organizations and all concerned citizens "must rage against the plight of our women in Dumaguete, especially the three innocent young victims who were reduced into an economic commodity and pornographic instruments for the benefit of the conspirators, the film director and the movie producers."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Trend Setting LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

How to pick the right pair of jeans for your body type

DENIM has been in existence since the 18th century when trade laborers and plantation workers donned them for their hardiness. But it wasn't until the late 19th century when the first ever pair of riveted jeans were patented and marketed by Levi Strauss.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

In the 1930s, cowboys wore them. During World War II, American soldiers donned them when they were off duty. In the 1950s, blue jeans became popular with the young, most especially with teenage rebels who looked up to James Dean. And in the '60s and early '70s, hippie chicks wore different versions like embroidered, psychedelic-painted pairs. In the late '70s, Studio 54 denizens wore jeans from Calvin Klein, who hired a baby-faced Brooke Shields to help him sell his stylized versions; they also wore Gloria Vanderbilt, who came up with a glamorous, super slim,

HOW/ D2

In this issue

Hollywood in ads /D3

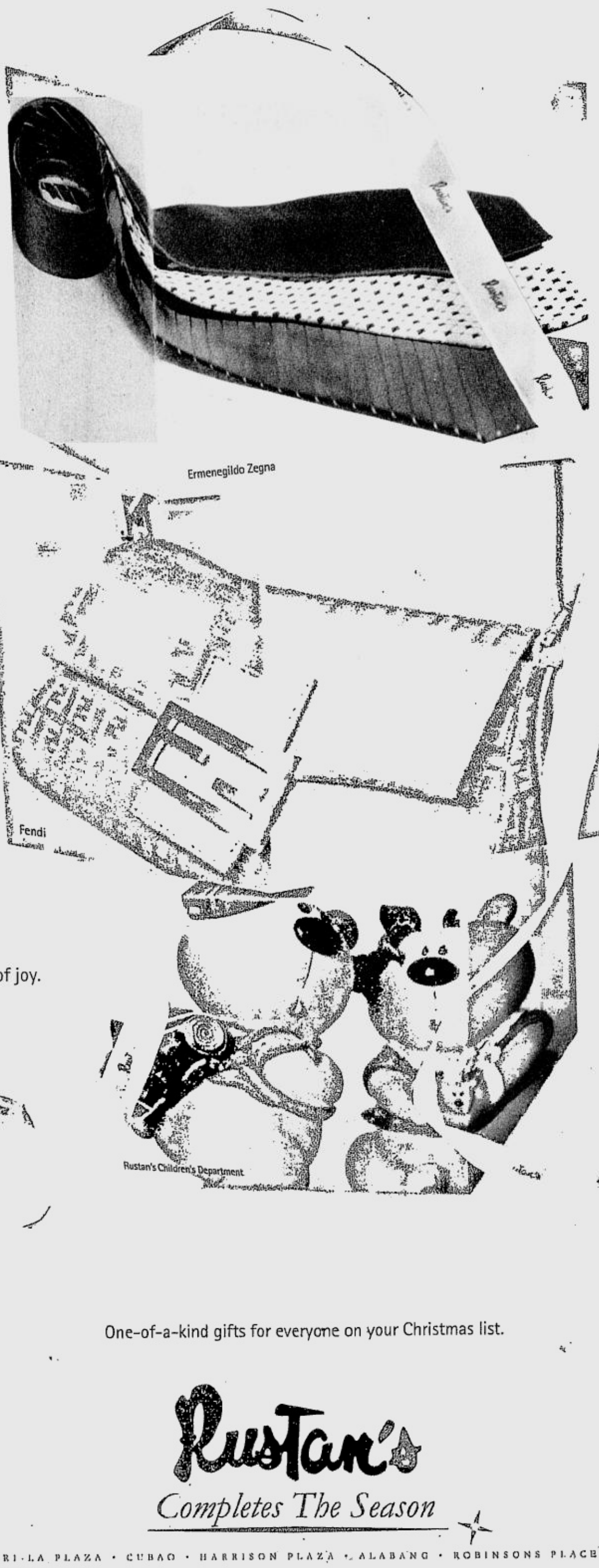
Seeing red /G4

New home for Louis Vuitton /H1

Pop princess in Manila /I2

Mixing it all up /K1

For Dad.



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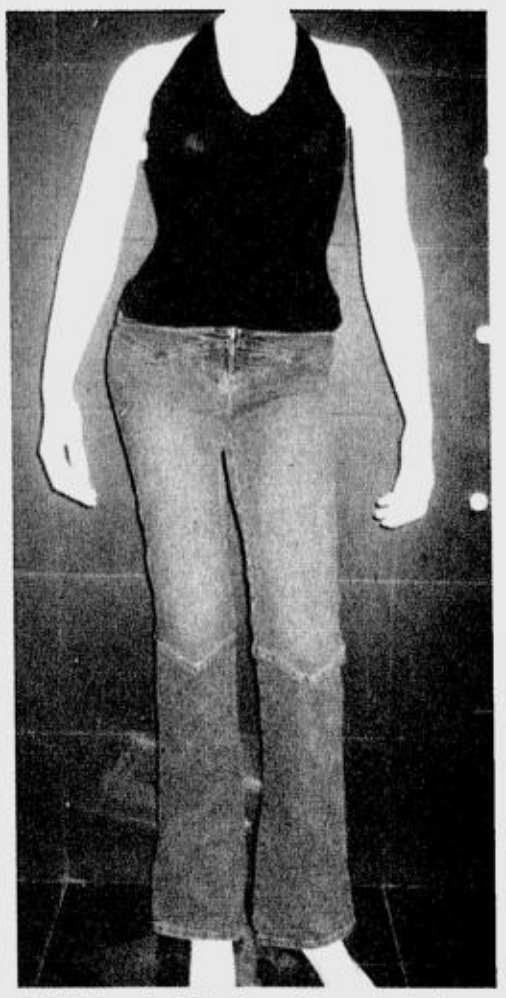
See Posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number AI-622 series of 2003

FULL-FIGURED women will look best in jeans that follow, but do not hug, the shape of their bodies. Culte Femme white-and-blue striped wraparound shirt with deconstructed corsage (P1,150) and Blue Cult medium waist, semi-flared jeans (P5,950)



DON'T be afraid to show off your bodacious body—in a tasteful way, of course. Culte Femme pleated halter top (P995) and Bella Dahl Vintage Chic hipster, semi-flared jeans (P6,750)

How to pick the right . . .

From page D1

indigo variety.

In the 1980s, blue jeans finally took their rightful place in fashion by becoming a status symbol of sorts, thanks to designers like Armani, Klein and Versace, to name a few. And although jeans took a dip in popularity during the early 1990s' grunge era, they are back in the forefront of fashion.

Jeans are possibly the most popular article of clothing today. People who wear them for all occasions, be it casual or dressy, can attest to this. But because of the proliferation of brands and styles, it's getting harder to choose the perfect pair. So, to make the decision-making process a bit easier, here are a few tips on how to choose the right pair based on your body type.

Petite

If your body type is similar to that of Hollywood's Jada Pinkett Smith, or our very own President Macapagal-Arroyo, then you fall under this category. Your utmost goal should be to elongate your appearance. When choosing jeans, pick styles that are fitted and close to the body. Hip-hop and wide-leg trousers will do nothing to improve your proportion so stay away from such styles.

Low-waist jeans or hipsters are acceptable as long as they do not make your legs appear shorter. Alternately, high-waist pants can make your torso look shorter so beware of those. It is better to choose a medium-waist pair in a solid color. Stretch jeans are also perfect for your slight frame. Stay away from styles that will overwhelm your body type and remember that streamlining is key.

Busty and voluptuous

Beyonce and J. Lo are prime examples of this body type. If yours is right up their alley, take your cue from these two beauties and stick to low-waist styles that elongate your torso and emphasize your booty. Don't be shy to show off your bodacious bod. You can do it in a tasteful manner, after all.

Baggy jeans won't flatter your curvaceous figure while hip-huggers with flared, boot-cut and wide legs will balance off your ample hips. When shopping for your hipsters, test-drive them by sitting and bending so you avoid purchasing a pair that's too low on the hips and that show a peek of your behind.

Tall and lanky

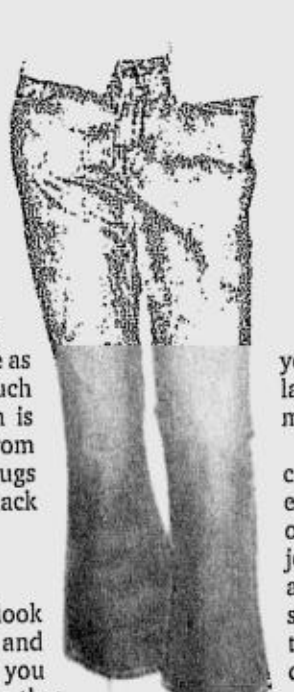
The likes of Calista Flockhart and Olive Oyl (Popeye's girl) can look great in jeans, too. The secret is in staying away from anything too tight that can make your legs look like chopsticks, and anything too loose that can create the worse proportion and a sloppy countenance.

Hip-huggers are acceptable, as are relaxed jeans. Bootlegs and slight flares are well suited for this body type as they can create the illusion of much needed curves. A bit of stretch is advantageous, but stay away from anything too stretchy that it hugs and emphasizes your body or lack of one.

Full-figure

Oprah Winfrey manages to look trim and fit in spite of her size and round figure. You can, too, if you follow her lead. Choose jeans that follow the shape of your body but do not hug every curve. A pair of relaxed, medium-waist jeans with straight legs is your safest bet. A pair with too much stretch and is fitted from waist to leg will not be flattering for you. So, even though this is the latest trend in the high-fashion market, avoid it.

JEANS that are fitted and close to the body are perfect for petites. Culte Femme pink-and-white strapless top (P995) and Bella Dahl medium waist, straight-cut jeans (P6,450)



CREATE much-needed curves for your boyish figure by donning bootlegs or flared jeans. Culte Femme tweed jacket with grosgrain accents (P2,650) and Mavi low-rise, flared ankle-length jeans (P2,950)

Remember that your aim is to create the right body proportion by emphasizing your assets and camouflaging your flaws. Choose your jeans according to your body type and you can't go wrong. Your personality and style are also important factors so do take those into consideration, as well.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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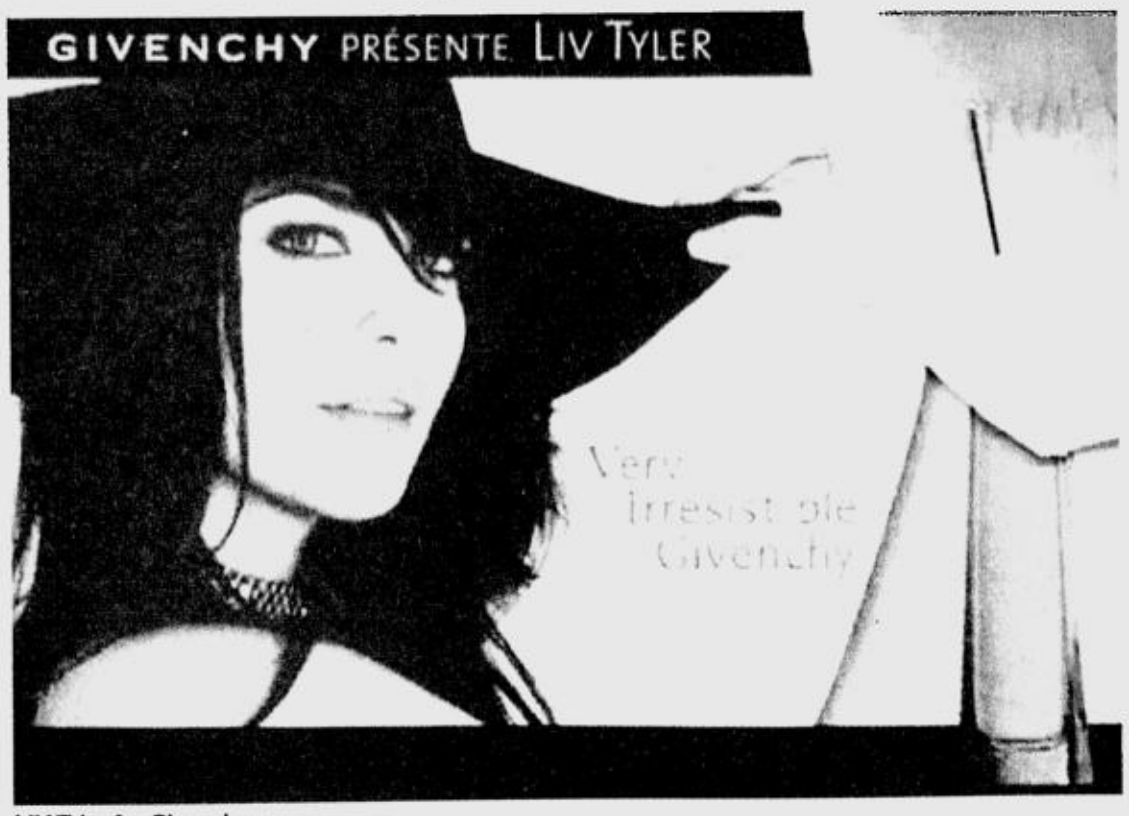
is the latest, colorful addition to the Saturday Special section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. For inquiries, please call 897-8808.

Style. Urban Living. Pop Culture. Entertainment. Recreation.



LIV Tyler for Givenchy

BRITISH rock star David Bowie (right) and supermodel wife Iman for Tommy Hilfiger, with the designer

Isn't that what's-her-name?

HOLLYWOOD actress Liv Tyler, already the face of Givenchy's fragrance Very Irresistible, will star in a new ad campaign for the French house's ready-to-wear and accessories lines, the company announced Monday.

Photographer Mario Testino shot the advertisements featuring Tyler in Givenchy's spring-summer 2004 collection created by Welsh designer Julien Macdonald.

Givenchy said it chose the 26-year-old Tyler—who stars in the upcoming "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"—because she represents "elegance, freshness and audacity."

Tyler's star turn for Givenchy is the latest in a series of fashion advertisements featuring A-list performers from Hollywood and the music industry.

Jennifer Lopez modeled for Louis Vuitton, Oscar nominee Cate Blanchett posed for Donna Karan, pop diva Christina Aguilera is the new face of Versace and Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody appears in ads for Ermenegildo Zegna.

Another Oscar winner, Australian actress Nicole Kidman, will be the new face of the iconic fragrance Chanel No. 5 in an advertising campaign created by her "Moulin Rouge" director Baz Luhrmann that is due to be launched in autumn 2004. *AFP*

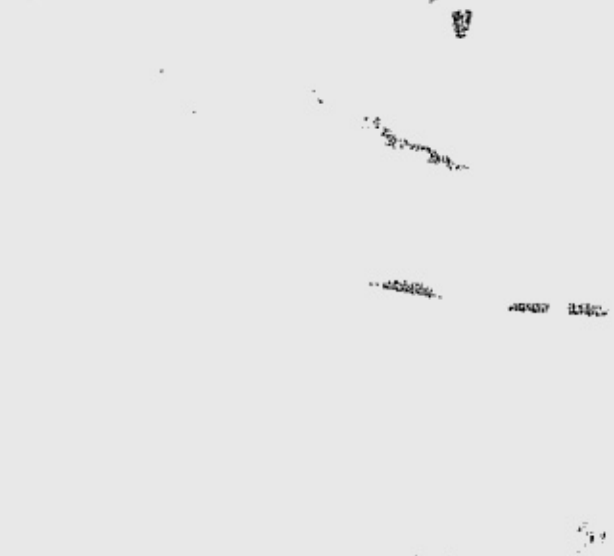
NICOLE Kidman for Chanel No. 5 AP

ADRIEN Brody for Ermenegildo Zegna

CATE Blanchett for Donna Karan

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2427 series of 2003

Get this close to her in person.



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SM SUPERMALLS

CHINGGAY Lagdameo

Paradise she now calls home

Story on page E2

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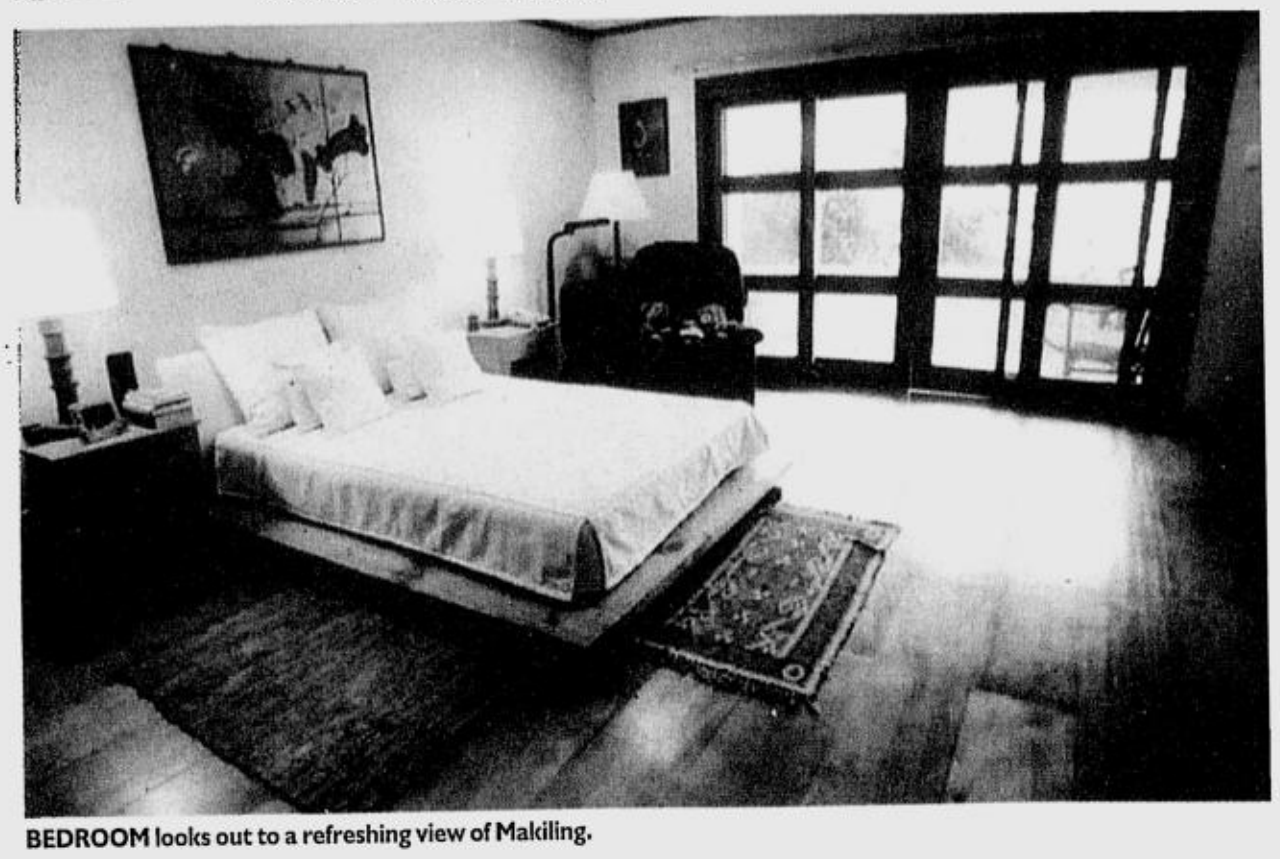
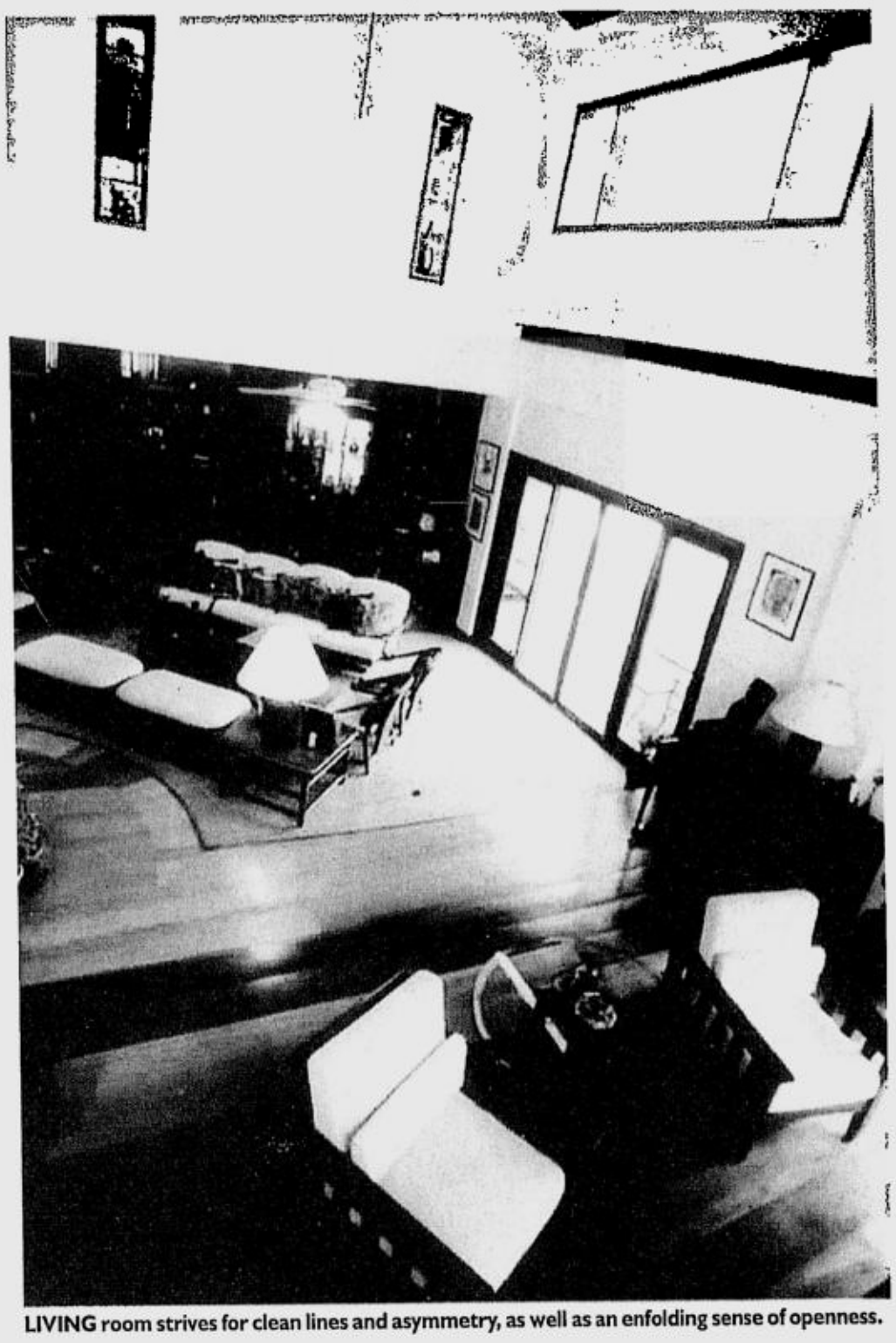


BEDROOM looks out to a refreshing view of Makiling.



LIVING room strives for clean lines and asymmetry, as well as an enfolding sense of openness.

DINING room uses paneled wood for a quaint, homey feel.

Paradise she now calls home

Culture maven Chinggay Lagdameo says she made the right decision moving to Ayala Westgrove Heights

HOME is where Chinggay Lagdameo's heart is.

For 39 years she and her family had lived blissfully in a fine home at North Forbes Park, Makati City. It almost felt like she would never part with a place that carried a lot of precious memories. It was only after her son's marriage when Chinggay realized it was time to move on and find a new home.

"I guess it came to us like an opportunity to experience something new," she says.

Chinggay and her husband came across a billboard of Ayala Westgrove Heights en route to Tagaytay. They asked for a tour. Chinggay was not just impressed: "I fell in love with the place! It is so peaceful out here. It is totally different from the environment we have been accustomed to while living in Makati."

What greeted them was a bountiful land with rolling hills and abundant mango groves. It showed a spectacular view of Mt. Makiling.

At first sight, they knew it was already a good investment. They then consulted Chinggay's nephew, architect Lorenzo Diaz, and his wife Malou, also an architect.

The decision proved most difficult for Chinggay and her husband. "It took us two years to decide. It felt like we were not ready to let go of our home yet. But somehow our gut feeling told us it was a good time to do this."

In October 2002, home for the Lagdameos became the quiet and lush surroundings of Ayala Westgrove.

"I look forward to coming home and enjoying quiet time with my husband," she now says. She also finds joy just looking at her garden teeming with flowers, "Every morning I would sit at the patio and watch the flowers bloom. It's great."

Chinggay's new home at Ayala Westgrove exudes the cozy, welcoming air of a well lived-in space. It also beautifully melds certain facets of her previous home with the present interiors.

"We gave a wish list to our architect about what we want to have in this house," she explains. "A lot of pieces are from my husband's art collections from travels abroad, and his very own paintings, my shot glass and my daughter's wine collection."

Many of the Lagdameo home furnishings are custom-made to provide that quaint and interesting appeal.

Perfect hideaway

To Chinggay, Ayala Westgrove Heights has also been a perfect weekend hideaway not only for her family but also for relatives and friends.

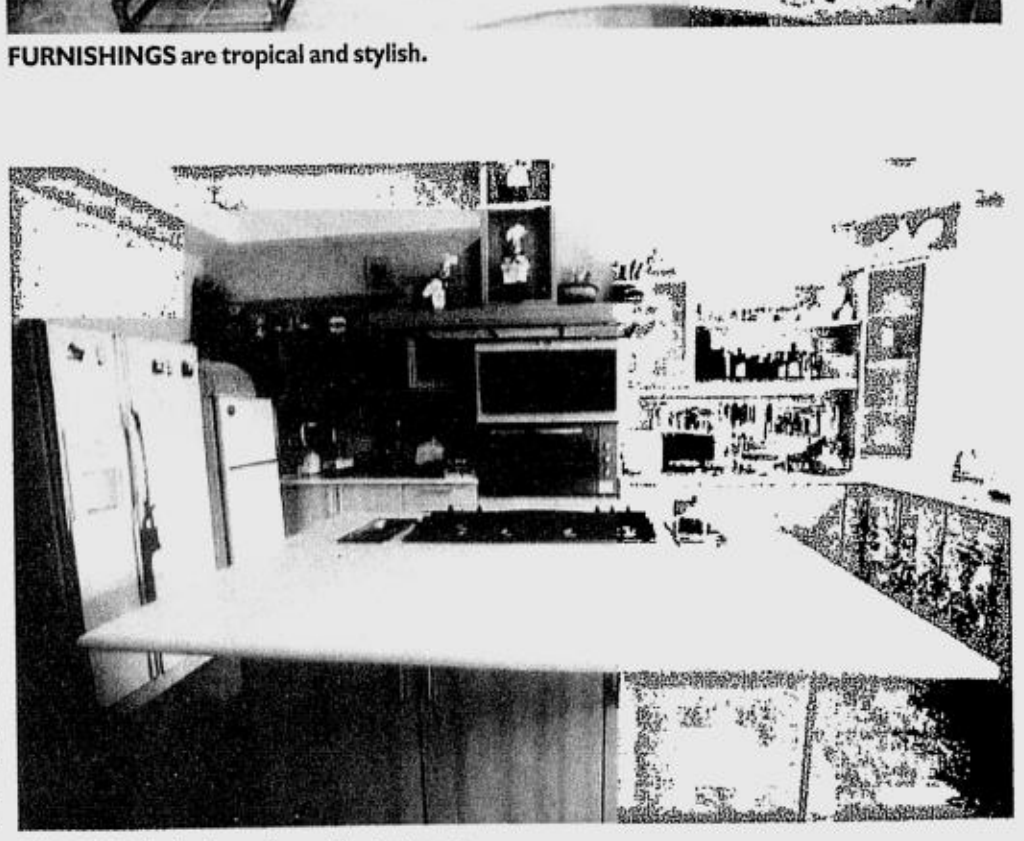
She dispels the misconception that since Ayala Westgrove is outside of Manila, it is very far.

As a trustee of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Chinggay tends to her duties in an office in Quezon City. "Distance has never been a problem for me since we moved here," she says. "It is actually a pleasant drive from here to my office. I guess it is a question of managing one's time and attitude."

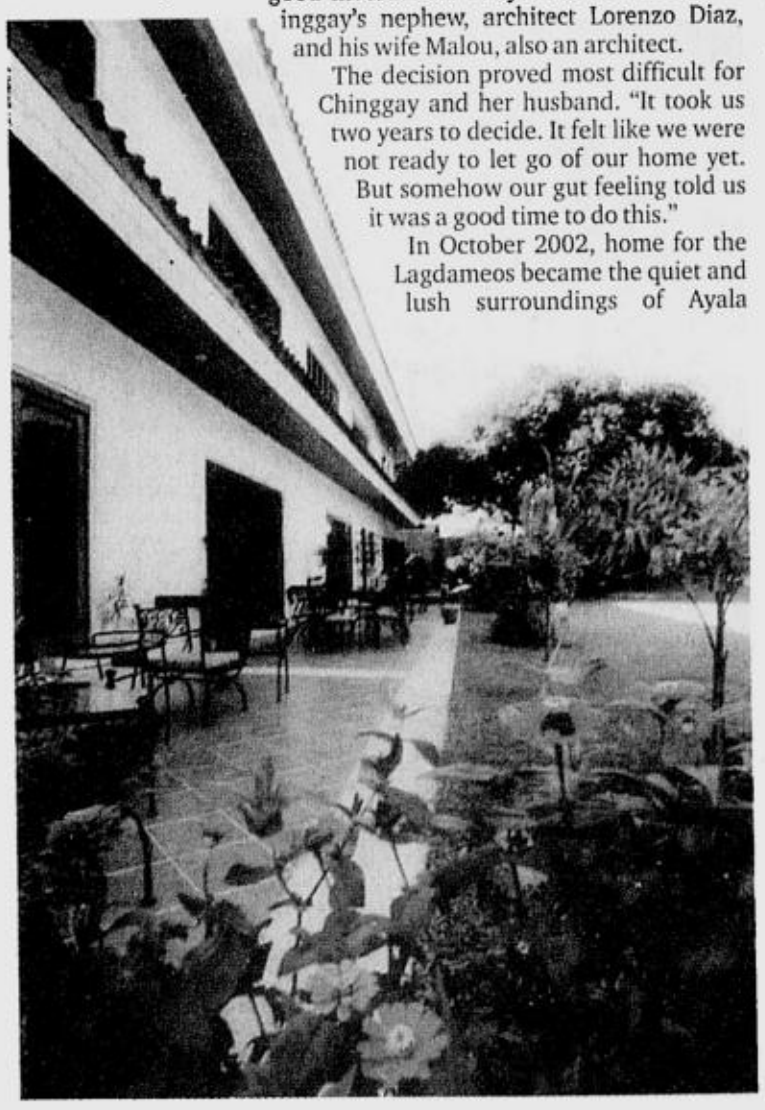
Ayala Westgrove Heights' commitment to meeting the needs of residents is a plus. "I remember when they said the Kidsgrove would be done by a certain month and they really finished it by that time," she says. "I think that makes all the difference here."

Despite her attachment to her previous home, the move has been worth it. "The environment is so peaceful and serene," she says. "I must say this is paradise in an urban setting."

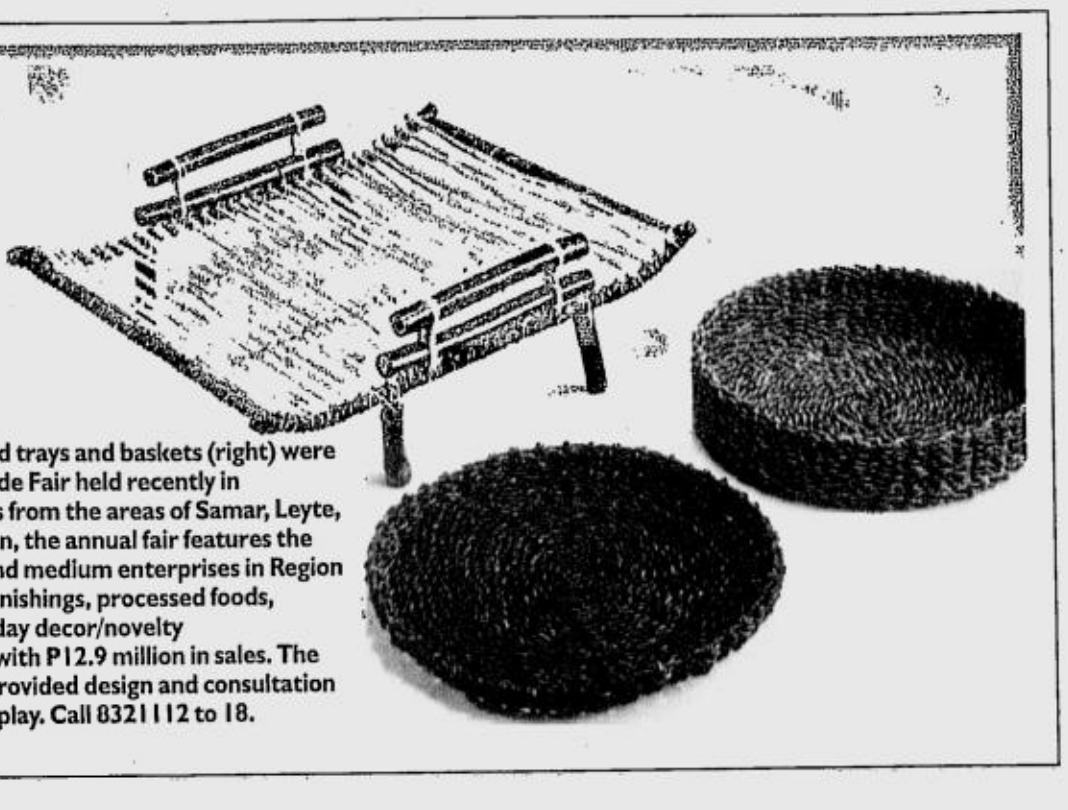
FURNISHINGS are tropical and stylish.



KITCHEN design is workmanlike but cozy.



FAÇADE strives for clean lines relieved by a hint of baroque amid lush foliage.



BAHANDI table lamps (left), packaging bags (above) and trays and baskets (right) were some of the items exhibited at the Bahandi Regional Trade Fair held recently in Intramuros, Manila. Participated in by 75 manufacturers from the areas of Samar, Leyte, Eastern and Northern Samar, Southern Leyte and Biliran, the annual fair features the rich variety of products manufactured by micro, small and medium enterprises in Region 8. Manufacturers from at least five product sectors—furnishings, processed foods, fashion accessories, handwoven/linen products and holiday decor/novelty products—showed off their best wares and went home with P12.9 million in sales. The Product Development and Design Center of the Phils. provided design and consultation services in product development and merchandising display. Call 8321112 to 18.

Preparing for married life

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My girlfriend and I have been on for two years now, and we have decided to get married next year. Both of us have good positions in a government office. This Christmas we will both be in different provinces for family gatherings, which will also give us the chance to talk to our parents about our plan to get married. There will be, of course, the *pamamanhikan*, but we would like to attend a seminar to prepare for our wedding. You have written about Marriage Retorno, but is there one for engaged couples?

RICKY

The Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) has lined up its weekends for 2004. The dates will be on Jan. 23-25, March 26-28, May 28-30, July 23-25, Sept. 24-26 and Nov. 26-28. The CEE is a marriage preparation program given to couples seriously considering marriage, but it is also open to civilly married couples who would like to get married in church, as well as couples who are living-in but would like to get married in church.

During this weekend couples are given the opportunity to examine their lives together through communication. It is a special time for couples to share their feelings, hopes, disappointments, joys, frustrations and to do so openly and honestly, in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart setting designed to deepen their relationship. This is a time for the two of you to examine your relationship away from distractions and tensions of everyday life.

The CEE weekends are held in different retreat houses in Metro Manila, starting from 6 p.m., Friday to Sunday. It is run by volunteer couples and a priest. Call Fr. Dave Clay, 5233361; Robbie and Bernadette Fabian, 8296182; Ike and Anna Madamba, 7266568; and Vinchy and Elisha Lirios, 7214153. E-mail ceephilippines @yahoo.com.

For chronic gamblers

Is there a rehabilitation center for chronic gamblers? If there is, please give me the address. Thank you very much.

TONETTE

You can inquire from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, but there is one you might consider: the Amor Rehabilitation Center Foundation Inc. The address is De los Santos St., Barangay Gulod Malaya, Bungod, San Mateo, Rizal. Call 9410589, 4154622. The majority there are drug dependents who can later face a better future. Recently, a compulsive gambler who was there for a year, now leads a good life.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to PO Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City; or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Finding the perfect holiday present

WITH CHRISTMAS just a few weeks away, the pressure of finding that perfect gift can be very difficult and stressful. Here are some things to remember when shopping for the perfect gift:

•Remember that you're shopping for someone else and not for yourself.

Oftentimes we give gifts that are more to our taste, overlooking the preferences of recipients. Keep in mind their hobbies, interests and favorite colors.

•Think special, not generic. Choose gifts that will hold special meaning for the recipient.

It may be a gift that will remind the recipient of a memorable time you shared, or it could allude to a secret wish or dream that she revealed to you.

•Always be on the lookout for Christmas shopping catalogues.

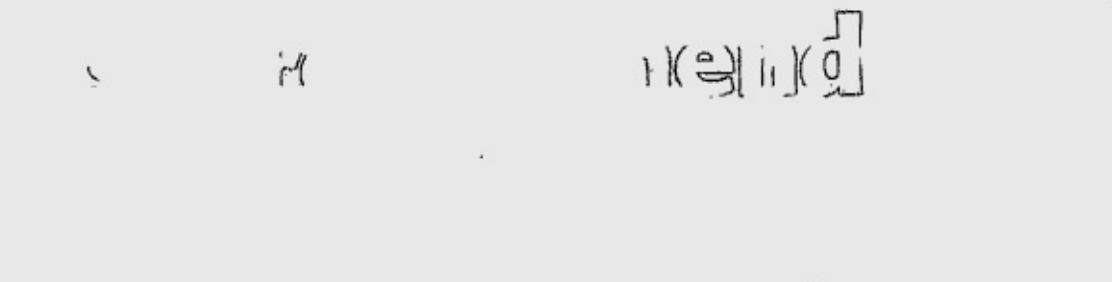
A catalogue already gives you a preview of hot items and recommended gifts. It also features product prices so you can plan your budget.

A catalogue makes shopping hassle-free and helps you save a lot of time.

Drop by any National Book Store branch for your copy of Christmas "magalog." An innovation of the traditional catalogue, the magalog combines the features of a catalogue and a magazine.

It features products and its corresponding prices, plus interesting articles and Christmas craft projects presented in step-by-step photos and instructions.

The National Book Store magalog offers a bounty of holiday ideas. Learn how to make personalized craft projects or get tips on survival shopping.



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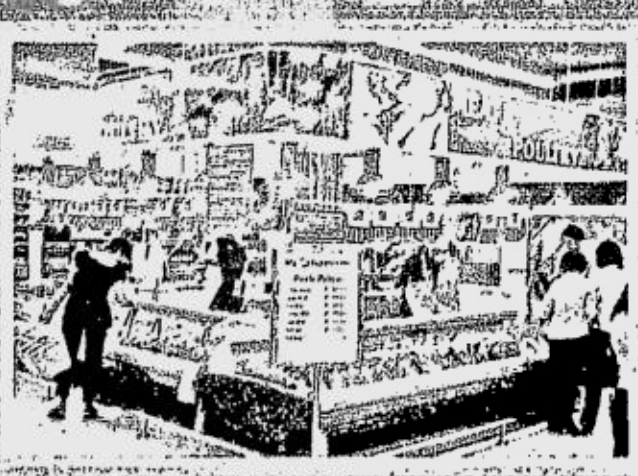

WHOLESALE SECTION

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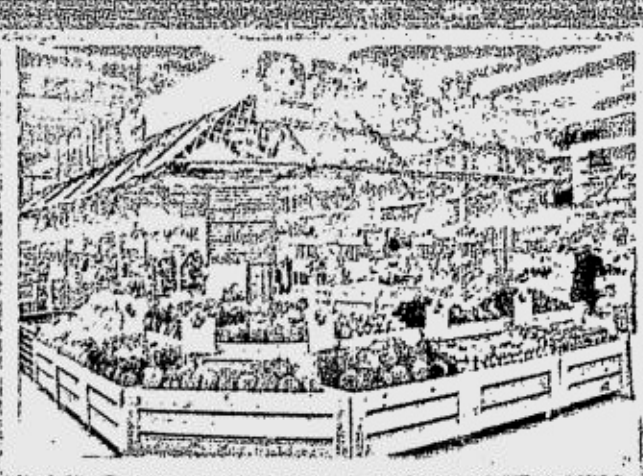

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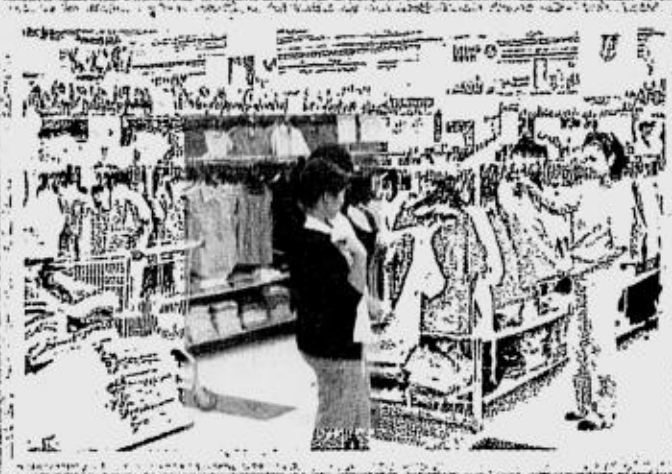

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Workshop on orchid growing

A WORKSHOP on orchid growing will be held on Nov. 22, 29 and 30, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Sponsored by the Philippine Orchid Society Inc. headed by Rex Puentespina, the speakers are Vic Chin Jr. on Phalaenopsis Culture; Remy Rodis Santilices on Vanda Culture; Andres Golamco Jr. on Cattleya Culture; and Rolita Spowart on Dendrobium Culture.

Apart from the lectures, there will be hands-on on potting and repotting techniques on Monopodial and Sympodial orchids and a field trip to V.S. Orchid Farms in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Registration is ongoing. Call 9294425 or 0917-8485468.

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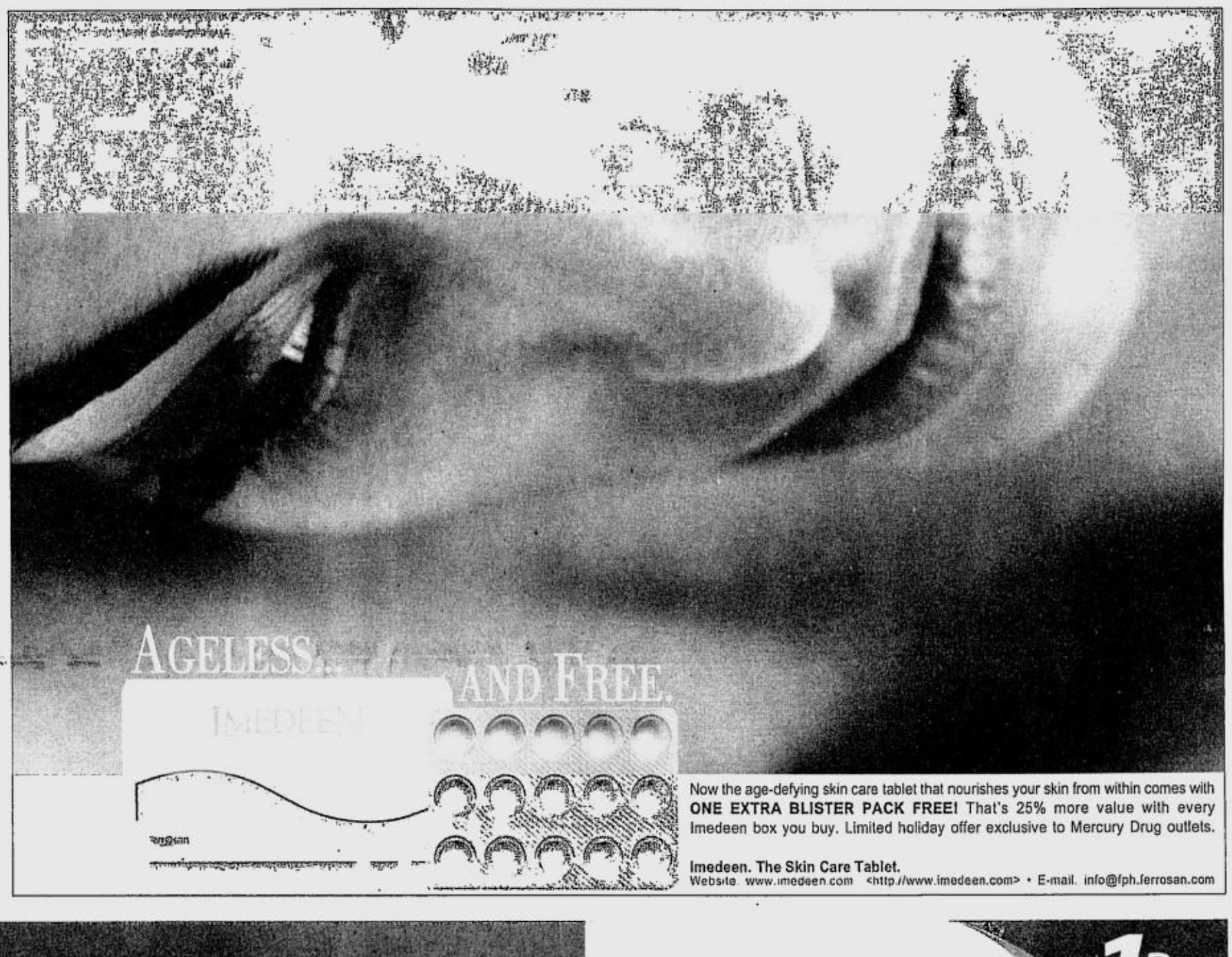

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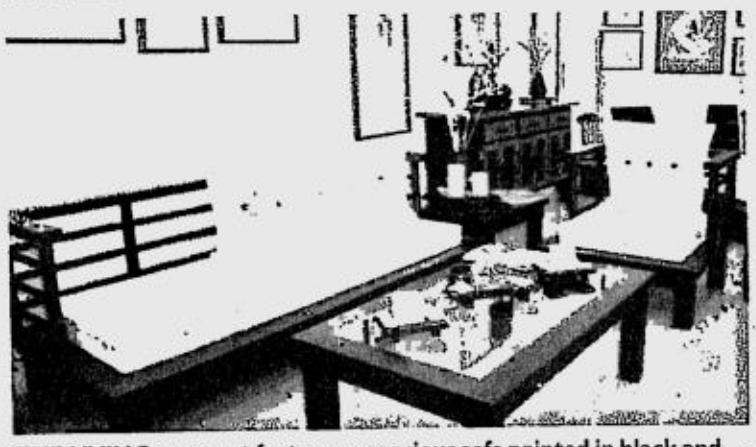
Zen-sible living

A LIVING room cabinet is adorned with wooden vases and small clay jars with calligraphy drawings. White pebbles on the ornaments balance the whole arrangement.



THE LIVING room set features a spacious sofa painted in black and an ensemble of white throw pillows in katsa cases. A low centerpiece tea table carries sushi board candleholders.

BY transforming interior decorating into an almost spiritual experience, entrepreneur Coy Chang has set Koga apart from the rest of the shops at Home Center, an innovative one-stop home furnishing hub in Eastwood City.

The home is a sanctuary. With this philosophy in mind, Koga sees to it that every single piece of furniture, décor and painting in its minimalist line of Japanese-inspired home furnishings brings a sense of calm and ease to living spaces.

Chang had no inkling that she would one day put up a furniture shop of her own.

"I already had my hands full managing my imported shoe store. Designing, for me, had always been just an interest, until Koga," she says.

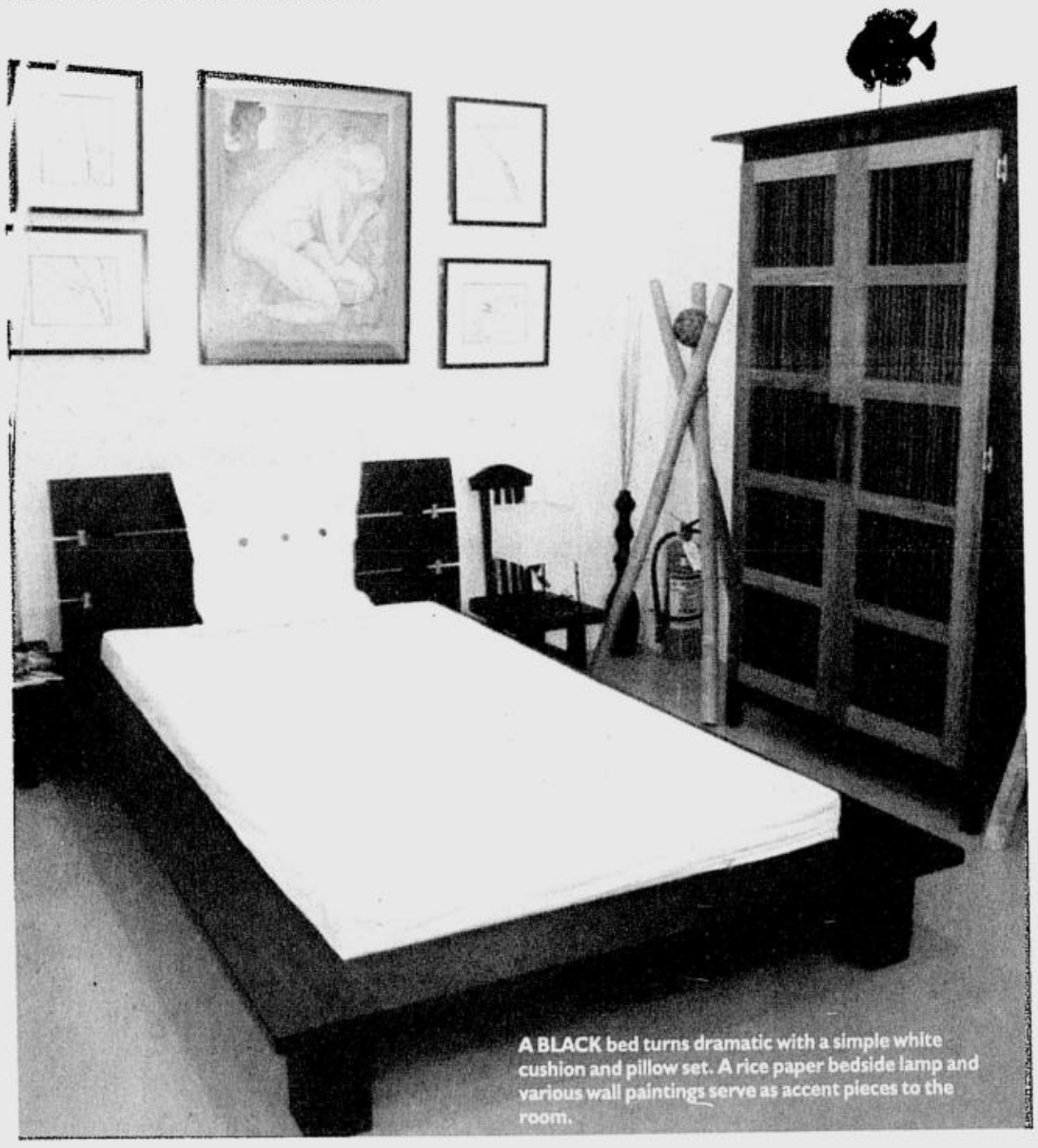
Her first decorating projects included her very own Zen room, complete with a whole set of Japanese-style furniture she herself designed.

Through the encouragement of friends who were impressed with her work, Chang decided to turn her small home improvement hobby into a full-fledged business venture. She had no formal training in design, but was brimming with enthusiasm and ideas.

Chang set out to produce the initial pieces of furniture and home accents for Koga, a Japanese term for classical furniture.

Made of hardwood such as narra, tanguile and mahogany and inspired by the Zen aesthetics of harmony and simplicity, her creations convey a sense of accord with nature through neutral colors, fluid lines and simple cuts.

A TALL cabinet with patterned carvings serves as a bedroom dresser and a TV storage in the living room.



A BLACK bed turns dramatic with a simple white cushion and pillow set. A rice paper bedside lamp and various wall paintings serve as accent pieces to the room.

A multi-purpose cabinet, for example, uses a combination of light and dark shades of brown and features simple ornamental carvings on its sliding door.

Her bar stool and table set, on the other hand, is in Zen's signature black color and relies only on an elephant-shaped candle and a wooden calligraphy-designed dish for decor.

Koga also carries smaller accent pieces such as framed paintings of upcoming Filipino mural artists depicting nature's artifacts and the graceful forms of the human body.

White rice paper lamps placed over low chairs light up a bedroom, while slender black jars make strong decorative statements against wooden floors.

Basic pieces

Contrary to the popular notion that getting the Zen look means buying a whole set of Japanese furniture, Chang assures home styling aficionados that it takes just a few basic pieces to create a Zen feel in their homes.

"Our furniture can blend seamlessly with non-Zen motifs. What's essential is to create harmony among the different elements in the room," she explains.

As more people are drawn to Koga's less-is-more approach to home decorating, Chang is already thinking of opening another Koga outlet to offer more stylish Zen creations showcasing Filipino craftsmanship and artistry.

But she also realizes the importance of establishing an identity in the market by maintaining Koga's signature no-fuss yet dramatic Zen style.

"We will definitely be adding more designs to our current display. At the same time, we're planning to come out with a line of garden furniture that still sports the Zen look," she says.

The new line will be made of teakwood, a very strong type of hardwood imported from Taiwan and Indonesia.

Japanese-inspired home furnishings bring a sense of calm and ease to living spaces

KOGA owner-designer Coy Chang poses with her wooden bar set made of sleek stools and a round table. A framed painting of bamboo leaves adds an organic touch to the collection available at The Home Center in Eastwood City.

Home store opens branches in Baguio and Marilao malls

GET a chance to bring home this Genie TV Entertainment Center from the opening day raffle promo of Our Home Baguio today and Our Home Marilao on Nov. 28. No purchase required.

OUR Home, the exciting lifestyle store, is opening two more outlets at SM City Baguio today and at SM City Marilao on Nov. 28.

Shoppers in the two malls will have a great time going over Our Home's innovative selection of furniture, houseware and home accessories, which have made it a favorite among interior designers and young, trendy homemakers.

More than that, the two new outlets will have Opening Day raffle promotions. They will be giving away exciting prizes to first-day visitors in hourly raffle draws beginning at 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. No purchase is required to join the raffle.

Some of the prizes include an Entertainment Center, a Gerty Coffee Table with side table, a Sigwood Office Table, an Ellison Bedframe, a Calypso Sofa bed, a Cassandra sofa set and a lot more.

Shoppers at Our Home in SM City Baguio will also enjoy a 20-percent discount on selected items today till Dec. 7, as will shoppers at SM City Marilao from Nov. 28 to Dec. 14.

Our Home will be located at the 3/L of SM City Baguio and at the 2/L of SM City Marilao.

WIN these sleekly designed mini-lanterns and other home accessories during the opening of Our Home Baguio today and Our Home Marilao on Nov. 28.

ONE of Our Home's opening-day raffle prizes is this Ellison Bedframe.

CACTUS Society officers and members: (first row, from left) Peter Bangayan, Serapion S. Metilla, Joey de Leon, Fr. Erwin; (second row, from left) Cathy Cristobal, Feme Viches, Josephine Yap, Delia Chuan, Elvie Pecson, Mely Ileto-Sibayan, Fely S. Gupit, Sally Obien, Chit Rufino; (third row, from left) Lily Ann Tan-Manzano, Judy Udquin, Art Rufo and Kevin Belmonte

Cactus show and bazaar

IN CELEBRATION of the 25th founding anniversary of the Cactus and Succulent Society of the Philippines headed by Amelita Ileto Sibayan, a Cactus Garden Show and Bazaar will be held Dec. 6-15 at the Sunken Garden, fronting Quezon City Hall, corner Elliptical Road and East Avenue, QC.

The exhibits will be formally opened by QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte and cactus connoisseur, former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos. The venue, now intended for regular flower and garden shows, will be blessed by Rev. Fr. Noland Que of San Carlos Seminary.

Apart from the exhibits of rare cacti and other succulents, there will also be rare orchids and various ornamentals to be landscaped by the Philippine Horticultural Society headed by P.J. Nepomuceno and colorful pet birds by Birds Inc., headed by Willy Wilson Nepomuceno.

To be opened free to the public from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., the exhibits, with lecture-demonstrations on the different aspects of succulent culture, will be composed of succulents as beauty aids, health and food, as lifesavers and air cleaners. In the commercial section, one can buy not only plants but also Christmas décor, mini waterfall Zen gardens, bonsai, holiday candles, pots and vases and the like.

Call 7412149/7414410/9264199.

Membership of Vatican Council seminar on GMOs questioned

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE LATEST report on the GMO controversy, as far as the Philippines is concerned, is a two-day seminar on the issue of genetic engineering called "GMO—Threat or Hope?" that was held in Rome. It was convened Nov. 10-11 by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, headed by Renato Rafaelle Cardinal Martino.

"From CBCP-Nassa, we learn that earlier, Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, chair of the National Secretariat for Social Action (Nassa) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, wrote to Cardinal Martino expressing alarm over the line-up of panelists chosen for the study seminar, stating that majority of the panelists "are known to have some bias for GMOs or have been connected with institutions/companies promoting GMOs." The endorsements made by these panelists, he stated, could have "serious implications on decisions of the Council."

Bishop Gutierrez's observations were based on data transmitted to him from concerned people around the world who urged him to call attention of the Vatican to the matter of the perceived bias. So he proposed inclusion of two experts known internationally for their active roles in "questioning the alleged promises of GMOs." The experts are lawyer Dan Leskein, an adviser to the Greens in the European Parliament, and biosafety expert Dr. Mae Wan Ho. Their presence in the panel was expected to assure that the views of both pro and anti-GMO groups were heard.

We are awaiting the results of that seminar.

More on tree-cutting

The item that appeared in this corner on proper ways to cut trees ("If you must cut trees do it right," 10/24/03) elicited reactions from readers, some of them wanting to know how to get a copy of the book, "Clean and Green Primer" which contains tree-cutting information. As I wrote at the time, the book is out of print but those interested in more information about it can contact Ernesto "Jun" Alvarez at the Clean and Green Foundation office, tel. 5280976.

Another reader, Mario Favila, relates his own experience with tree planting which might interest others. I quote excerpts from Favila:

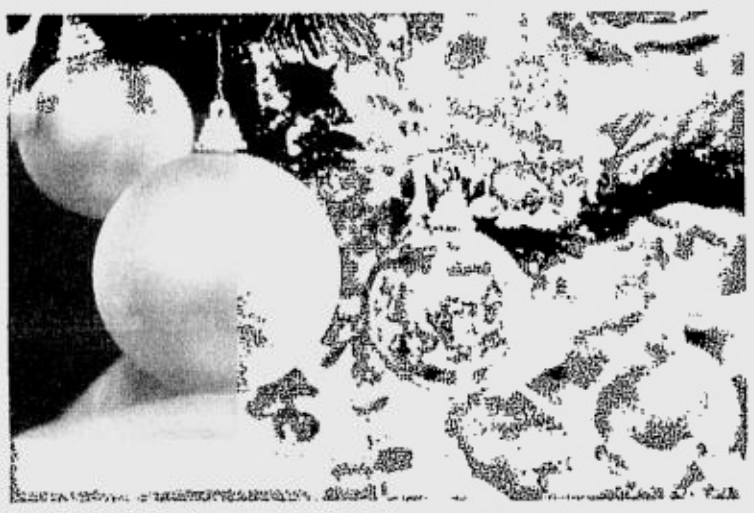
"Many years ago, I [obtained] a bagful of mahogany seeds [at] Subic [and] planted them in our little garden. Since I could not grow them all in our garden, I had only two replanted and they are now three stories high. The rest I gave to San Juan, and I'm not sure if some of them may be the ones growing in the middle of Ortigas Avenue now.

"The first time I read about the trimming of trees along Ortigas Avenue, MMDA reasoned it was because Wack Wack (Mandaluyong) residents were complaining it was getting dark in their area because of the trees. It was a wrong reason [for] doing something about the trees. I thought MMDA was just taking care of them (as they ought to be doing all over Metro Manila) so trees would grow healthy and beautiful. Anyway, I think they should trim the trees at the bottom not on top and allow them to grow above street lamps not below them. In doing so, trees with high crowns can still provide shade or cover while not blocking the street lights."

That's another helpful tree-cutting tip. I'm sure many will agree with Mr. Favila that trimming should be done at the bottom not at top. Illustrations on the "Clean and Green Primer" (reprinted in the same issue) show when it is necessary to do either.

E-mail the author at dorsnuyda@yahoo.com

Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez expressed alarm that the panelists chosen for the seminar 'are known to have some bias for GMOs'



CHRISTMAS balls are available at special discounts.

Holiday shopping without the stress

HANDYMAN and Handyman Do it Best are holding a "Décor Galore" sale until Nov. 27. Christmas trees, lights, wreaths, balls and other ornaments are available at special discounts.

And to make your Christmas a stress-free experience, here are some helpful tips from Handy and Handyman Do it Best:

• Use your imagination to the max! Decorating for the Holidays is an opportunity to be creative. If you want your décor to be more than just reds and greens, for example, pick the colors you want and have fun.

• Start making a list of the people you would be giving gifts to, the items you want to give, the places where you can find these gifts and your allotted budget. If you don't know what specific item to give, try thumbing through magazines and newspapers for gift suggestions.

• Visit alternative shopping destinations like Handyman and Handyman Do it Best. There are gifts for moms (candles, full-length mirrors, utility boxes, organizers, wireless phones, glass shelves), dads (tool boxes, power tools, ladders, car gas containers), teenage sons and daughters (hand vacuum, car accessories, hobby trays, outdoor/camping light, vanity mirrors), co-workers (topiaries, CD racks, flashlights) and employers (lap trays, John Benzen pocket tools, foot spa).

• Be prepared for friends and relatives who might unexpectedly drop by during the holidays. It would be wise to have generic or neutral gifts on hand such as wine, home items, bath essentials or gift certificates. Handyman and Handyman Do it Best have gift certificates at P100, P200 and P500.

• Avoid parking problems, customer traffic, and long lines to the cash register by shopping early whenever you have extra money. Remember, as the holidays get nearer, the stores get busier.

Handyman and Handyman Do it Best branches are found at Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores and selected malls nationwide.

Handyman Do It Best at Big R Supercenter is opening this month and is giving away five household appliance showcases. Also opening this year are Handyman Do It Best in Waltermart, Plaridel, Bulacan; Elizabeth Mall, Cebu; and Pacific Mall in Lucena.

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Caring for your porcelain treasures

LIVING in the subtropics can really wreak havoc on your expensive collection of porcelain art. Here are some tips on how to take care of your fine porcelain home accents from the world-renowned Lladro.

Bisque porcelain (not covered with glazes or enamel) and Blance de Chine (white bisque porcelain developed by the Chinese) have to be regularly washed (especially Blance de Chine), since they are not glazed and can easily accumulate dust.

Dirt and humidity may cause stains on the surface of bisque porcelain that may prove difficult to remove later on. To remove them, use minimum brushing with a medium to light toothbrush.

Glazed porcelain (those that have a grasslike coating which renders them impervious to stains) can be washed regularly and are very easy to maintain.

Avoid using a fine brush to remove dust as this may dislodge delicate extremities of the piece such as small hands or flowers.

If the figurine is small and light, bring it to the kitchen sink and use the kitchen spray. Pour some soapy water on the figurine and gently hose away the dust, sweeping from top to bottom.

If the porcelain figurine is too big or heavy, arrange some dry dish cloths around the base of the figurine and, with a laundry spray containing five-percent liquid soap diluted in water, gently spray the figurine from top to bottom to ensure that most dust particles will be hosed down.

Lladros are available at Imperial House of furniture, gifts and porcelain, Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

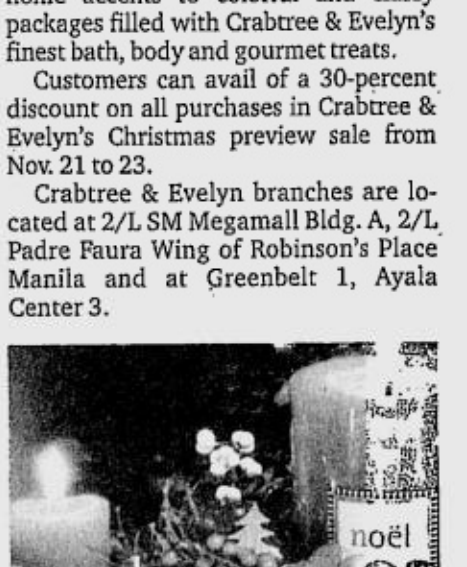
Christmas sale offers 30-percent discounts

CRABTREE & Evelyn's Noel holiday collection of home accessories seeks to decorate homes with the warmth of holiday candles and scents.

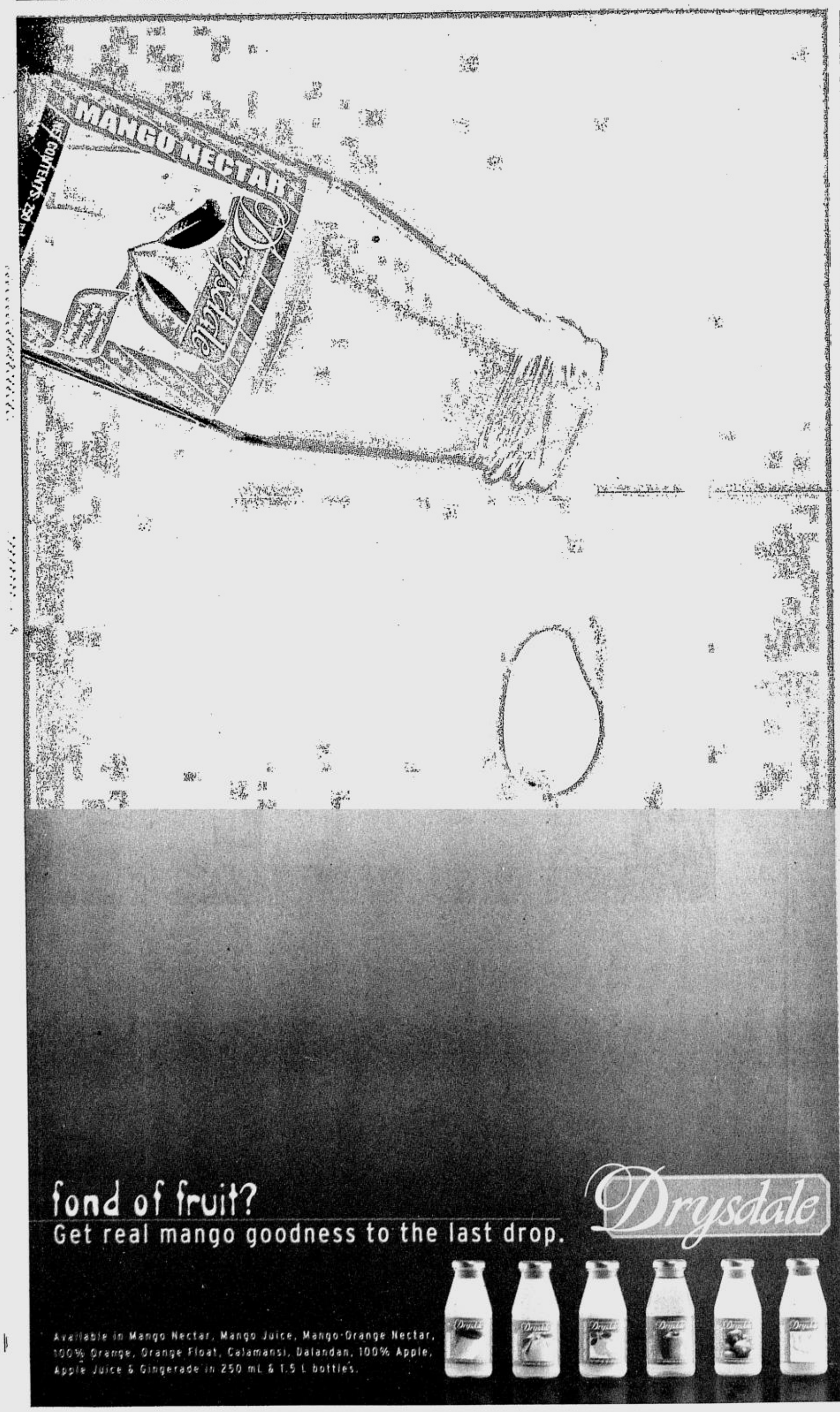
The store also offers perfect gifts for every family member, from captivating home accents to colorful and classy packages filled with Crabtree & Evelyn's finest bath, body and gourmet treats.

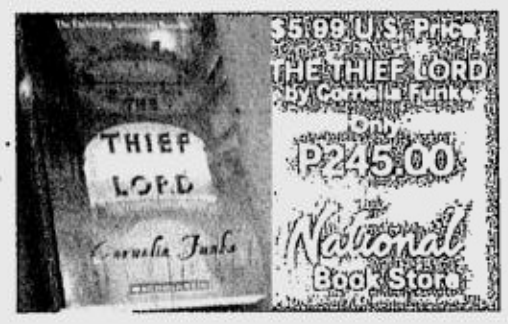
Customers can avail of a 30-percent discount on all purchases in Crabtree & Evelyn's Christmas preview sale from Nov. 21 to 23.

Crabtree & Evelyn branches are located at 2/L SM Megamall Bldg. A, 2/L Padre Faura Wing of Robinson's Place Manila and at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center 3.



HOLIDAY candles and scents from Crabtree & Evelyn's Noel holiday collection





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Designers create ternos to honor Joe Salazar

A TRIBUTE to Joe Salazar, the fashion icon who romanced the *terno*, will be presented at the Metropolitan Museum on tomorrow.

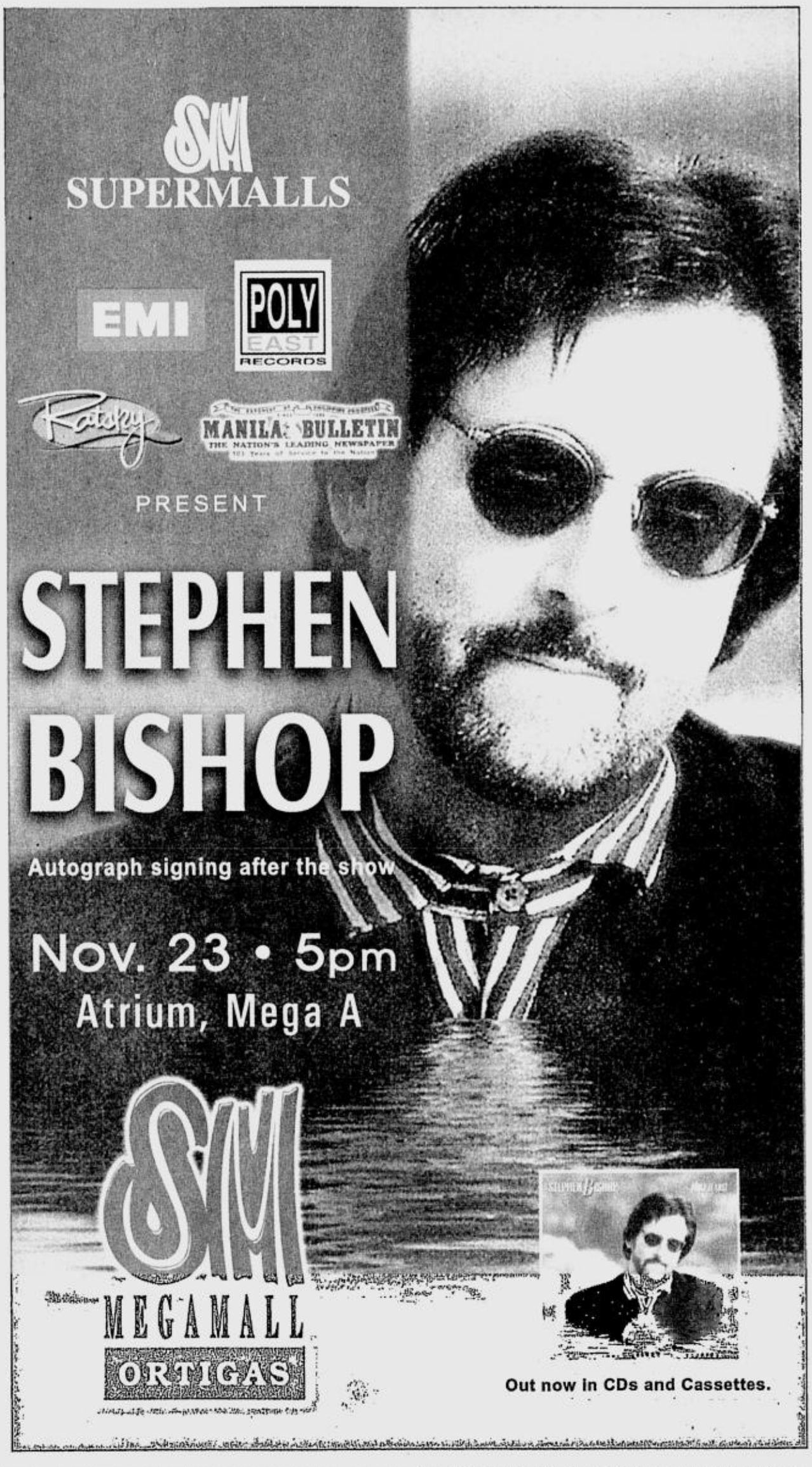
The event is co-chaired by presidential daughter Luli Arroyo and Bea Zobel Jr. To be featured are the interpretations of designers who have created *ternos* in honor of Joe Salazar: Rajo Laurel, Randy Ortiz, Joji Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Rhett Eala, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Paul Cabral, Dong Omaga Diaz, J.C. Buendia, Arcy Gayatin and Tippi Ocampo. The *terno* designs of 10 finalists of the "Terno for 21 Competition: Taking the Terno to the New Century" will also be presented.

This fund-raising event is for the benefit of the Metropolitan Museum's varied projects, such as the revival of the *terno* industry through showcasing and encouraging the wearing of the *terno*.

The show will start at 7 p.m. at the Tall Galleries, followed by dinner at the Bangko Sentral Gallery and Upper Level Galleries.

Call Pili Aquino at 0918-9798818 or The Metropolitan Museum's Ino Manalo at 5237855 and 5361566.

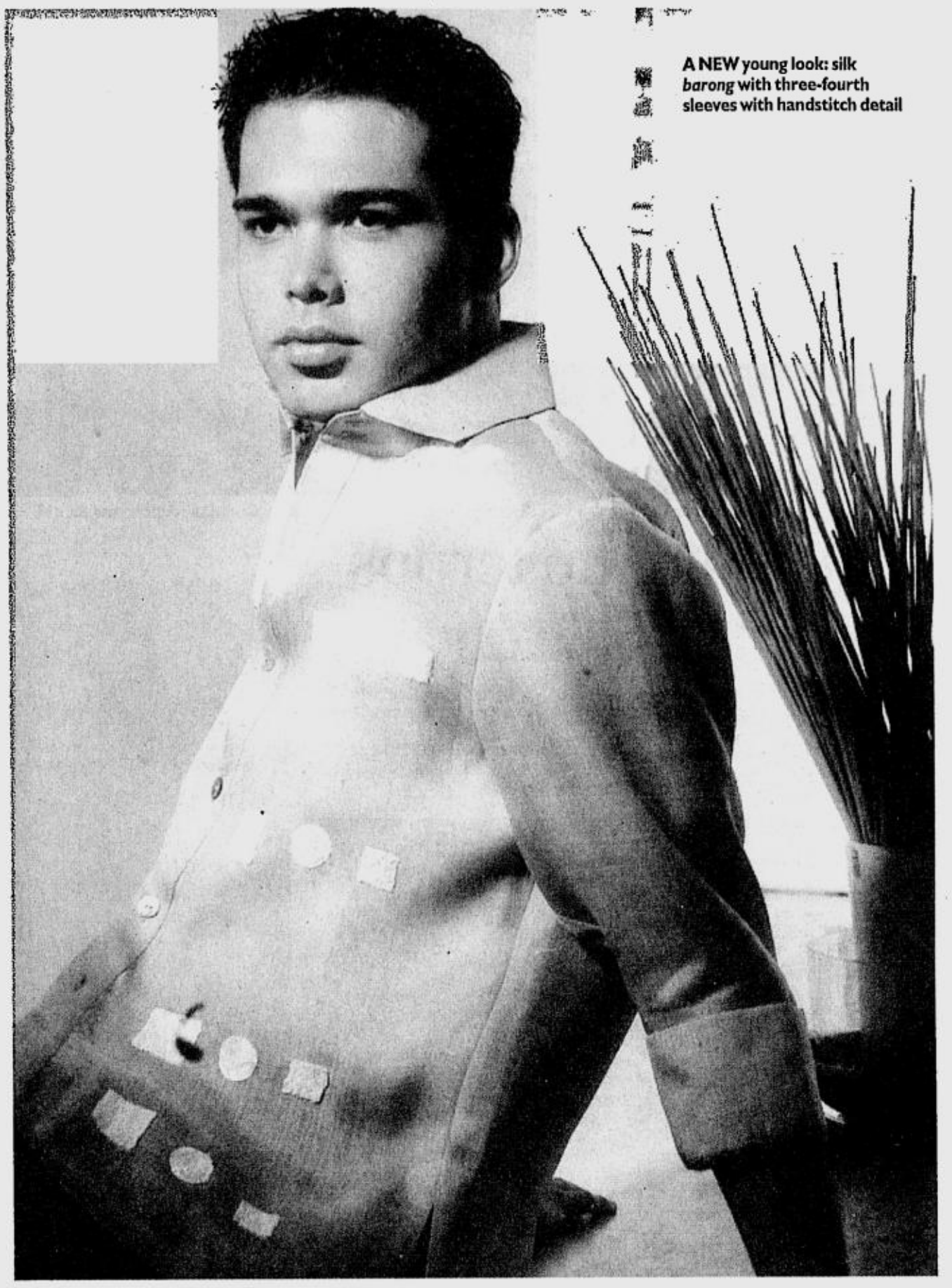
DEVELOP YOUR ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILL



PLEATED ramie linen-*jusi barong* with handstitch detail

MODELS: MARK JENTES AND GUENAELLE RUAIS. PHOTOS: XANDER ANGELES

A MODERN twist: *piña* pleated blouse with embroidery and blue gray ramie with *jusi* accent



A NEW young look: silk *barong* with three-fourth sleeves with handstitch detail

Barongs for men of style

JEAN Goulbourn's Silk Cocoon for men appeals to three generations of men in a family.

"I thought only the young would wear this new line—but shown to baby boomers like me, men loved the idea of experimenting with new colors, new shapes and new methods of embroidery—from frayed pleats and three-quarter length sleeves—they did not resist trying anything I offered," Goulbourn says.

For the holiday season, Goulbourn presents her constantly evolving *barongs* ideal for any special occasion. She has introduced new elements of detail into the standard *barong*, making it more appealing to the style-conscious male.

For the modern minimalist, she takes ramie linen and mixes it with *jusi* in shades of blue, gray and beige.

For the more experimental man, Silk Cocoon introduces a fully embroidered shirt-jack in a subtle vine motif, in contrasting neutrals that is versatile enough to wear with anything from jeans or khakis to formal pants.

There's also a line of pleated *barongs* that is clearly made for the true gentleman of style.

Of Silk Cocoon's handwoven silk formal *barong*, Goulbourn has expanded the range to include less traditional looks with more interesting details and touches of color—the collar may be slightly wider, the sleeve shorter with a unique cuff and the body more fitted than the usual. The design features an appliqué of silk and raffia and accents of mother-of-pearl buttons.

Silk Cocoon is located at the ground floor of New World Renaissance Hotel.

"SANTUARIO de San Antonio" by Katrina Goulbourn

"THE CHURCH of Las Piñas" by Nolie Hans

"THE QUIAPO Mosque" by Ben Farrales

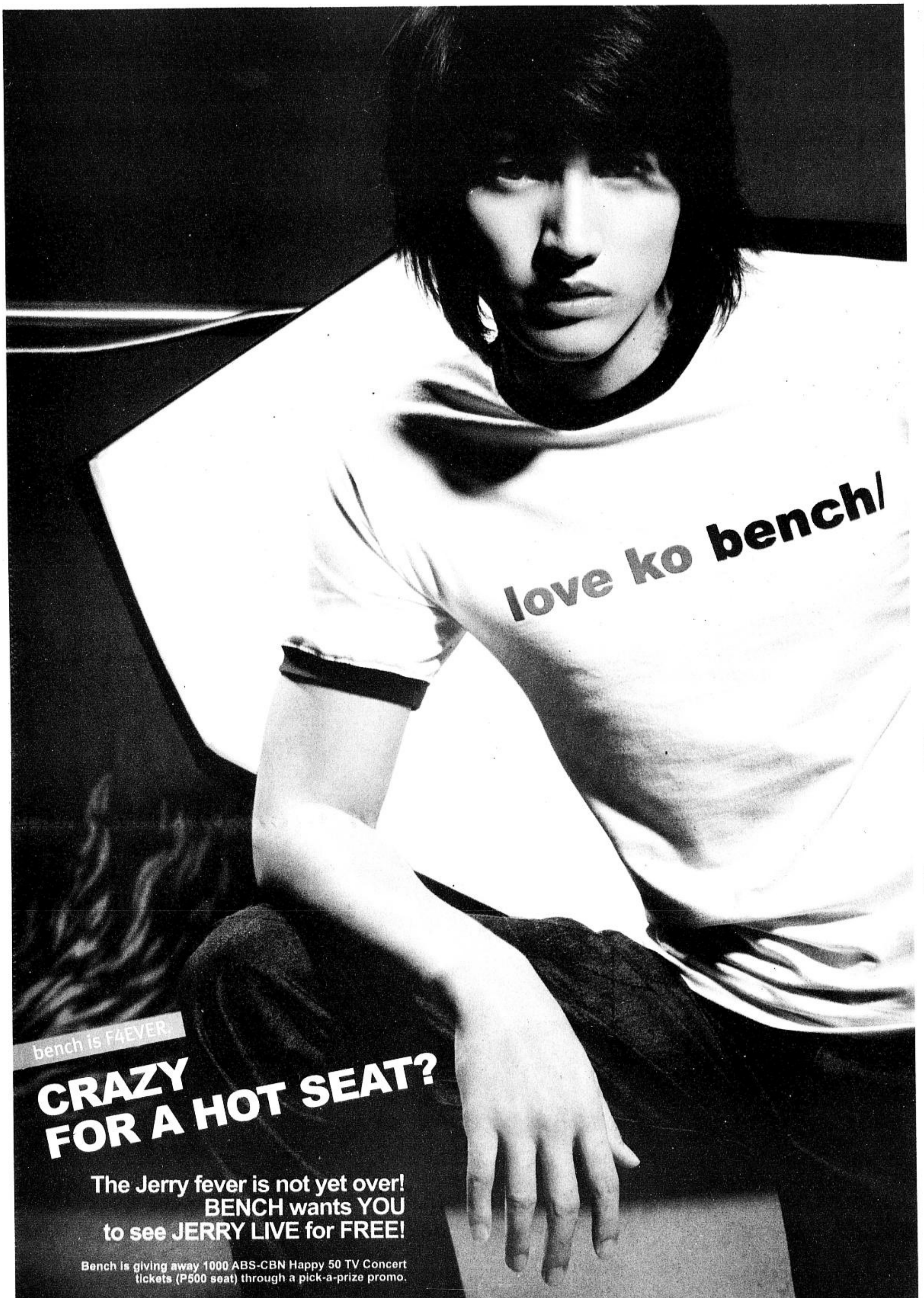
"BARASOAIN Church" by Malou Veloso

"CATHEDRAL of the Immaculate Conception" by Eddie Baddeo

Baile Foundation presents 'Gayak Pasko'

FIVE years have passed since a group of former dancers of the Bayanihan felt the need to enrich Philippine dance so companies may not forever be wedded to their existing repertories. Tried and true dances are the products of translating original dance research into theater. This is why enrichment of the repertoire requires more original dance researches. It was in this light that Baile Foundation was formed.

Baile Foundation has held a series of mall exhibits during the Yuletide in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza Corp. The exhibits have fused art in various forms with Philippine traditions, starting with "Punong Punong Pasko" for Christmas trees in 1999, "Noche Buena" for festive table settings in 2000, "Belen! Belen!" for nativity scenes in 2001, "Kasuotan" for Philippine dance costumes in 2002 and "Gayak Pasko" creations inspired by classic Philippine churches. "Gayak Pasko" is ongoing at Shangri-La Plaza Mall until Nov. 22.


love ko bench/
bench is F4EVER.
CRAZY FOR A HOT SEAT?
The Jerry fever is not yet over!
BENCH wants YOU
to see JERRY LIVE for FREE!
Bench is giving away 1000 ABS-CBN Happy 50 TV Concert tickets (P500 seat) through a pick-a-prize promo.
Be the first to catch the heat at selected Bench stores from November 21 to 23!
Bench SM North Edsa
Bench Robinsons Place Manila
Bench Robinsons Galleria
Bench SM Megamall
Bench Glorietta
Mechanics:
1. For a minimum P2,000.00 worth of purchase of Bench or Herbench items in a single receipt, customer gets a chance to draw one coupon from the Pick-A-Prize bowl for a chance to win one ticket to the ABS-CBN Happy 50 TV Concert on November 29 at The Fort.
2. To join, customer must present valid single receipt P2,000.00 worth of any regular-priced Bench or Herbench item on the same day of purchase.
3. A customer may only draw one coupon from the Pick-A-Prize bowl.
4. For the winning coupon, customer gets the free ticket from the promo-in-charge.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4876 Series of 2003
www.benchtm.com
bench/
OVERHAULED denim

"My Hair Stopped Thinning Out & Became Lush Again!"

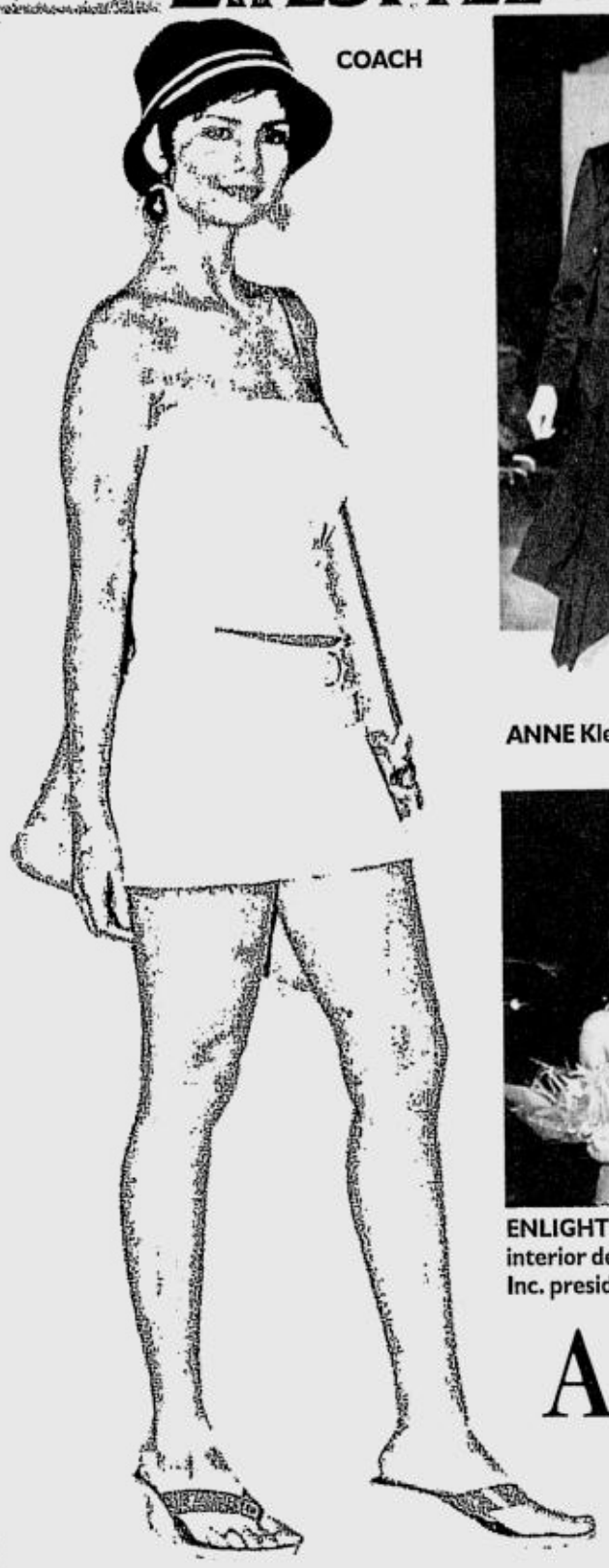
Eva Abesamis

"I've always had thick hair but when I was threatened by heavy hair loss a few years ago, I panicked! My friend advised me to go to **Svenson** for their hair-loss treatments. In just a few sessions, my thinning hair had more volume than ever before---I don't have to tease it to make it look fuller. Since then, my hair has remained long and lush that someone even asked me if I was using hair extensions! I said this IS my real hair and only Svenson helped me to keep it thick, full and lush again!"

Woman AT Svenson

MAKATI	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	CEBU
819-3336	372-6631	243-0128	842-1389	032-2340851
816-1260	372-6632	244-8913	842-4181	032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)



COACH

ANNE Klein

JESSICA

POLO by Ralph Lauren

ENLIGHTENED shoppers. (from left) Chef Melissa Sison, capoeira enthusiast Cookie Duran, interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes, VJ/model Amanda Griffin and Cartwheel Foundation Inc. president Gina Alfonso

A woman's best holiday pal

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Romy Homillada

THE FIRST credit card in the Philippines designed exclusively for women offers a holiday treat. Cardholders may enjoy zero-percent interest for up to 12 months through Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Red MasterCard's "Red Installment."

Women may choose from the signature clothes, accessories, designer shoes, jewelry, perfume and cosmetics offered by the chain of shops of no less than Stores Specialists Inc. They may want to obtain the latest Kate Spade purse, Nine West three-inch boots or Gucci handbag.

HSBC Red MasterCard and SSI recently staged a fashion show to preview the latest lines from such SSI labels as Episode, DKNY, A/X, Salvatore Ferragamo, kate spade, Bally, Coach, Gucci, Nine West, Ralph Lauren, Prada, Anne Klein, Jessica, Diesel, Bass, Lacoste, Burberry and more.

But you're not into fashion? Not to worry. Other participating stores include SM Appliance Center, Automatic Centre, Avid store chains, Western, GE Appliances, Sogo, Maco, SM Our Home, Make Room, True Value, Anson Emporium, Beauty Bar, Lush, Ambiance One. Plus, get discounts from Original Skin by UMV, Vice Versa, The Spa, Urban Spa, Discovery Spa.

Wellness

The HSBC Red MasterCard considers the Filipina's overall well-being.

Discounted dental prophylaxis and free cosmetic and reconstructive surgery consultations can be hers through the Healthway Medical Clinics.

There are also discounts on unlimited dermal and cosmetic consultations.

The installment plan also offers insurance coverage for female ailments at discounted prices.

And until Dec. 13, HSBC Red MasterCard holders can avail of exclusive freebies and promos at the Red at the Makati Shangri-La, Bizu Patisserie, Casa Armas, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Hue Vietnamese Bar & Restaurant, Italianni's, MYLK, National Sports Grill, Oody's Restaurant, Pepato, Recipes, Soleil, Restaurant 12, Temple Bar, The Good Earth, The Seafood Club, Una Mas, Uva Restaurant and Via Mare Oyster Bar.

"Red Installment" is ongoing until Jan. 31, 2004.

Icons

HSBC senior vice president for credit card Claire Yap says there's still much to look forward to with the Red MasterCard.

Since HSBC now has a tie-up with SSI, exclusive sales for all Red MasterCard holders will be among next year's big events, including periodic discounts at popular places and special movie screenings.

"HSBC's Red MasterCard only has the Filipino woman in mind in all its activities," Yap says.

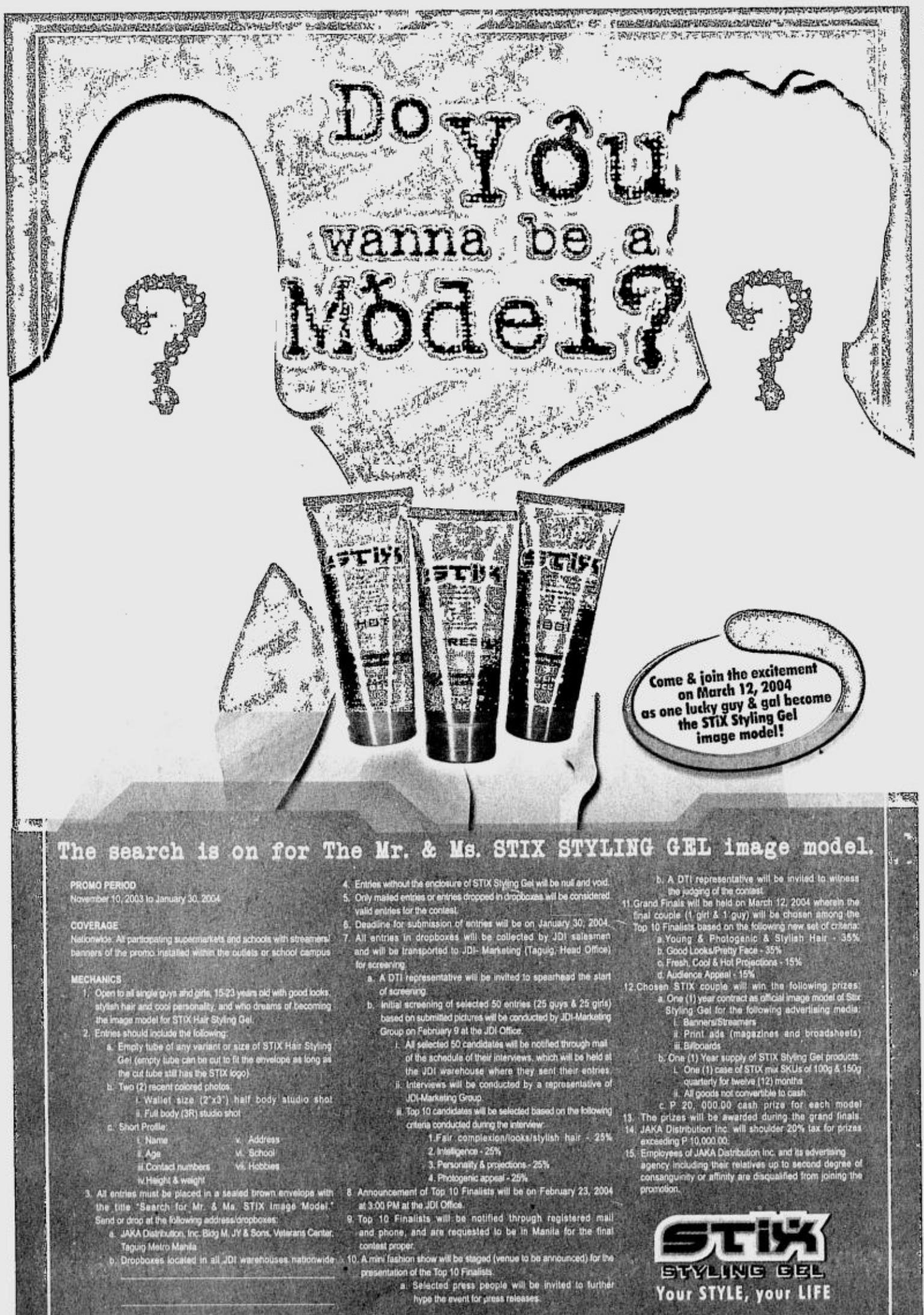
Carrying the message of free-spirited, independent, philanthropic, healthy and sporty lifestyles are five women especially chosen by HSBC: model and VJ Amanda Griffin, interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Cartwheel Foundation Inc. president Gina Alfonso, MYLK chef Melissa Sison and capoeira (Brazilian martial art) enthusiast Cookie Duran.

HSBC says the five women reflect "enlightened shopping." They have "the right spirit, mood, attitude, match, look, words" and, yes, the right credit card.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

CK Jeans

KATE Spade



The search is on for The Mr. & Ms. STIX STYLING GEL image model.

PROMO PERIOD
November 10, 2003 to January 30, 2004

COVERAGE
Nationwide. All participating supermarkets and schools with streamers/ banners of the promo installed within the outlets or school campus

MECHANICS
1. Open to all single guys and girls, 15-23 years old with good looks, stylish hair and cool personality, and who dreams of becoming the image model for STIX Hair Styling Gel.
2. Entries should include the following:
   a. Empty tube of any variant or size of STIX Hair Styling Gel (empty tube can be cut to fit the envelope as long as the cut tube still has the STIX logo)
   b. Two (2) recent colored photos:
      i. Wallet size (2"x3") half body studio shot
      ii. Full body (3R) studio shot
   c. Short Profile:
      i. Name
      ii. Age
      iii. Contact numbers
      iv. Height & weight
      v. Address
      vi. School
      vii. Hobbies
3. All entries must be placed in a sealed brown envelope with the title "Search for Mr. & Ms. STIX Image Model." Send or drop at the following address/dropboxes:
   a. JAKA Distribution, Inc. Bldg M. JY & Sons, Veterans Center, Taguig Metro Manila
   b. Dropboxes located in all JDI warehouses nationwide
4. Entries without the enclosure of STIX Styling Gel will be null and void.
5. Only mailed entries or entries dropped in dropboxes will be considered valid entries for the contest.
6. Deadline for submission of entries will be on January 30, 2004.
7. All entries in dropboxes will be collected by JDI salesmen and will be transported to JDI- Marketing (Taguig, Head Office) for screening.
   a. A DTI representative will be invited to spearhead the start of screening.
   b. Initial screening of selected 50 entries (25 guys & 25 girls) based on submitted pictures will be conducted by JDI-Marketing Group on February 9 at the JDI Office.
      i. All selected 50 candidates will be notified through mail of the schedule of their interviews, which will be held at the JDI warehouse where they sent their entries.
      ii. Interviews will be conducted by a representative of JDI-Marketing Group.
      iii. Top 10 candidates will be selected based on the following criteria conducted during the interview:
         1. Fair complexion/looks/stylish hair - 25%
         2. Intelligence - 25%
         3. Personality & projections - 25%
         4. Photogenic appeal - 25%
8. Announcement of Top 10 Finalists will be on February 23, 2004 at 3:00 PM at the JDI Office.
9. Top 10 Finalists will be notified through registered mail and phone, and are requested to be in Manila for the final contest proper.
10. A mini fashion show will be staged (venue to be announced) for the presentation of the Top 10 Finalists.
    a. Selected press people will be invited to further hype the event for press releases.
    b. A DTI representative will be invited to witness the judging of the contest.
11. Grand Finals will be held on March 12, 2004 wherein the final couple (1 girl & 1 guy) will be chosen among the Top 10 Finalists based on the following new set of criteria:
    a. Young & Photogenic & Stylish Hair - 35%
    b. Good Looks/Pretty Face - 35%
    c. Fresh, Cool & Hot Projections - 15%
    d. Audience Appeal - 15%
12. Chosen STIX couple will win the following prizes:
    a. One (1) year contract as official image model of Stix Styling Gel for the following advertising media:
       i. Banners/Streamers
       ii. Print ads (magazines and broadsheets)
       iii. Billboards
    b. One (1) Year supply of STIX Styling Gel products:
       i. One (1) case of STIX mix SKUs of 100g & 150g quarterly for twelve (12) months
       ii. All goods not convertible to cash
    c. P 20, 000.00 cash prize for each model
13. The prizes will be awarded during the grand finals.
14. JAKA Distribution Inc. will shoulder 20% tax for prizes exceeding P 10,000.00.
15. Employees of JAKA Distribution Inc. and its advertising agency including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

STIX STYLING GEL
Your STYLE, your LIFE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3241 Series of 2003

Bigger home for most famous monogram

MONOGRAM Dalmatien

YVES Carcelle, chair and CEO of Louis Vuitton Malletier

ECLIPSE (P46,600 each)

FRANÇOIS Delage, EVP of Louis Vuitton Pacific Ltd.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan and Eric Sauvage

While others chose to ignore Manila, Louis Vuitton opened here, and now, a decade later, is ready for a more exuberant market

A COMPANY grounded on tradition yet nimble enough to respond to changing times. This sums up the essence of Louis Vuitton's success, as the luxury brand gears up for its 150th anniversary in 2004.

Meanwhile, in response to brand-conscious Filipinos' growing demand for luxury items, its Manila store has moved to a bigger and better location, a 300-sq m affair, at the newly opened Greenbelt 4.

To underscore the Philippine market's importance, no less than Yves Carcelle, chair and CEO of Louis Vuitton Malletier, and François Delage, EVP of Louis Vuitton Pacific Ltd., flew in recently to grace the event.

Louis Vuitton Malletier exclusively designs and manufactures Louis Vuitton products, while LVMH Fashion Group is in charge of all the other brands such as Loewe, Celine, Christian Lacroix, Givenchy, Donna Karan, Kenzo, Berluti, Stefanobi, Marc Jacobs, Emilio Pucci, Fendi and Thomas Pink.

The brand is named after its founder, who designed the very first Louis Vuitton trunk in his workshop outside Paris in 1859.

The symbolism wasn't lost on Carcelle. From a single workshop, the company, which he said was born to travel, now has 14 workshops and hundreds of stores the world over.

"We care about our tradition and history," he added, "but at the same time we're modern enough to respond to change."

Nowhere was this more evident, he added, than when the company got Marc Jacobs in 1998. The American fashion designer became Louis Vuitton's artistic director when it expanded into shoes and ready-to-wear clothes.

Aside from guiding the company as it ventured into relatively new territory, Jacobs has been responsible for making Louis Vuitton a consistent trendsetter in Paris.

Chic energy

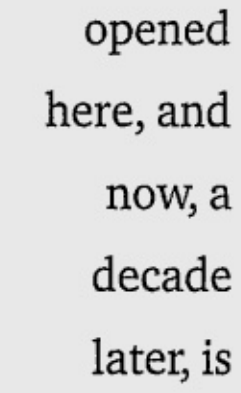
Jacobs was also responsible for getting Jennifer Lopez to endorse the brand. Some people might have raised their eyebrows at such a decision, but in the end he was proven right. J. Lo may not be the epitome of chic, but her power to hawk Louis Vuitton has given Carcelle reason to smile these days.

"We wanted a woman who expresses energy," said Carcelle, "and J. Lo personifies that. The minute she entered the room during the shoot, I felt the entire place energized."

Jacobs gets to enjoy the best of both worlds, designing clothes under his name while providing Louis Vuitton with creative inputs. Management sees this as a form of synergy rather than a conflict of interest.

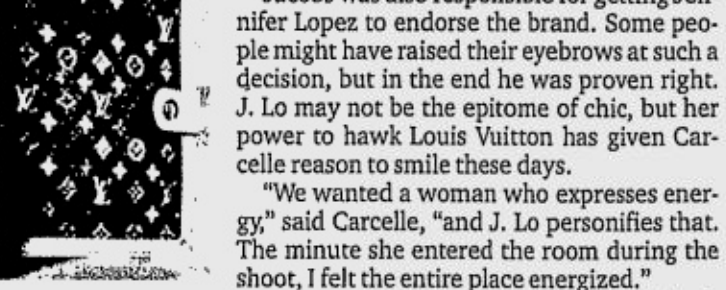
"We're also main shareholders of his line," said Carcelle. "He [Jacobs] respects and abides by our tradition to adhere to quality. At the same

BIGGER/ H3



MULTICOLORE Agenda

BOWLING trainer



SUHALI leather pump

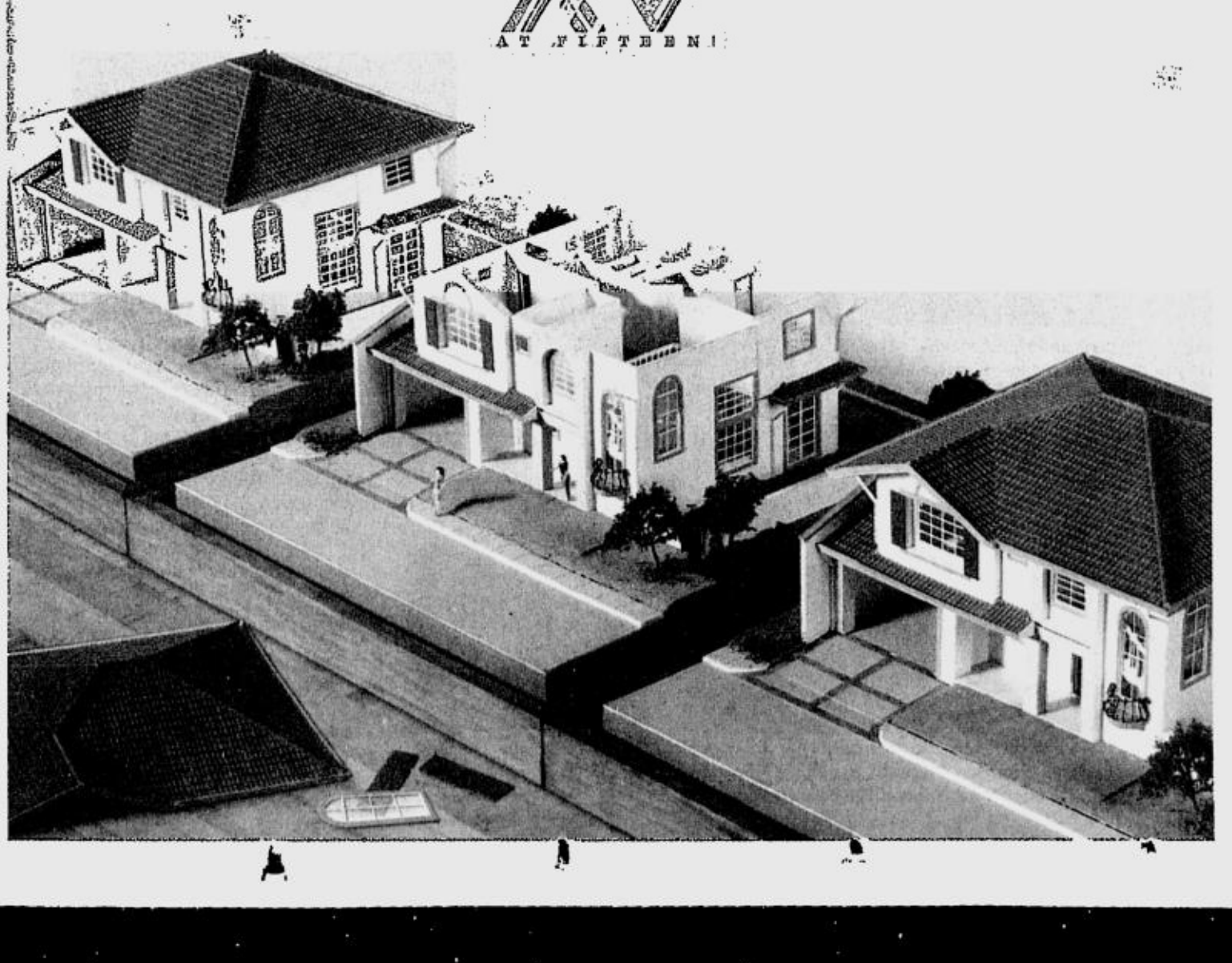
Wanted: Dream Builders

DREAM BUILDERS STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION. Because people keep dreaming, Ayala Land looks for future dream builders! As part of our 15th anniversary celebration, we're looking for future architects to design a dream community and win all these: • Full scholarship to the 5th Year of Architecture • P20,000 school supply allowance • Traineeship to a select Architecture office abroad with room and board. Open to all 4th Year Architecture students of good standing.

See posters for details, or call tel. nos. 841-5798, 849-0521 or 849-0531

YOU KEEP DREAMING. AYALA LAND KEEPS BUILDING.

AYALA LAND
AT FIFTEEN!



LV FANS. Lifestyle Asia's Sari Yap, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Louis Vuitton Asia-Pacific PR manager Andrew Glenn and Jeannie Goulbourn

PORTFOLIO heavyweights. BPI's Gigi Montinola, Shangri-La Plaza GM Wolfgang Krueger, good-looking Nick Gilbert with his dad Mark Gilbert

THE GALS and the tycoon. Anne Marie Corominas visiting from New York, with Sofia Elizalde, hot gent Edoardo Delgado and fashion plate Sigalit Djemal

They all partied for a luxury leather logo

HONG Kong supermodel Lia wears an outfit from the Louis Vuitton 2004 Cruise Collection.

COSMO Manille is steaming with excitement, *palanggas*. Makati hasn't been this electric in eons.

Restaurants are packed, clubs and bars are teeming with patrons, and there are several parties and happenings taking place on the same night.

There is even a new beat on the streets. And the latest beat was the opening in Manila of the French luxury-goods giant, that hot namedroppable Louis Vuitton, which inaugurated its newest store in the world with glitz, glamour, fanfare and cool style.

Jetting in from Paris for the grandiose event was hotshot Monsieur Louis Vuitton Malletier (LVM) chair and CEO **Yves Carcelle**. He cut the ceremonial ribbon with **Serge Brunschwig**, LVM managing director for operations; **François Delage**, Louis Vuitton Pacific Ltd. executive vice president; **Andrew Glenn** and **Edd Fuentes**, public relations manager of LV Asia-Pacific and head of the Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., respectively; **Gigi Mabanta**, LV Philippines general manager; and civic-oriented socialite **Kit Silverio Zobel**.

Zobel looked absolutely resplendent in a Louis Vuitton outfit, complete with bag and shoes, designed by Louis Vuitton's artistic director **Marc Jacobs**, no less.

The opening gathered personalities from the fashionable pack, and from the political, diplomatic and social circles. They socialized and reserved practically the whole merchandise, dahlings, since no sale was allowed that night.

Spotted were the charming Energy Secretary **Vincent Perez** and Bukidnon Gov. **Joe Zubiri**, who was with his ultra-fashionable wife **Vicky**, in a gorgeous Versace outfit.

Also there were **Jimmy** and **Missy Ayala**; **Miguel** and Barbara **Aboitiz**; **Justa Tantoco** and **Linda Panlilio**; Fairways and Blue Waters' **Noel Cariño**, with his pal and business associate **Rafael Perez de Tagle**. They are both rich men about town, and everybody wants to be their friend.

Guests gathered around the eye-catching jewelry collection which had a miniature Eiffel Tower and a Citröen car, reflecting the French spirit and *savoire faire* of this brand, *palanggas*.

Among them, *moi* zoomed in on banker **Aurelio Montinola** and stock-market queen **Vivian Yuchengco**; taipan **Emil Yap III** and publisher **Nap Rama**; GMA-7's **Rod Cornejo**; Ayala Land's **Angela Lacson** and **Miriam Katigbak**; IBM's **Richard Burgos** (who is always asked to parties, but rarely goes); BMW's tall and dashing **Mark Gilbert** and **Lito German**; businessman **Ben Chan**; French Baker's **Johnlu Koa** and his elegant wife, Escada's **Marilou Koa**; style entrepreneurs **Ricco Ocampo** and **Tina Maristela**; restaurateurs **Margarita Fores**, who loves to party but leaves early, and **Larry Cruz**; **Ricky** and **Beng Dee**; **Malu Gamboa** and Resto 12's **Elbert Cuenca**; and Mega Mag's **Liza Ilarde**.

Everyone you know and love, or probably hate, was there. They are known to light up Cosmo Manille's night life, *palanggas*. They are known as the party night life's hip set.

Heading the pack were **Tony Hotung** and his wife **Wendy Puyat**; **Archie Rodriguez**; gorgeous **Bianca Zobel**, who was in a Marc Jacobs cocktail outfit; **Jaime Daez**; **Jean-Henri Lhuillier** with pretty wife **Bea**; **Patrick Reyno** and **Celine Lopez**; commercial model **Audrey Tan** and handsome **Marco Lobregat**, who is an enthusiastic party person and works up a room fast; **Robby Mananquil** and sis **Rissa M. Samson**, who arrived with husband Marzo; fashion director **Robby Carmona**; and lensman **Raymund Isaac**.

The guests couldn't have enough of LVM's newest store, which coincided with Louis Vuitton's 10th anniversary in the country.

Relocated from 6750 Ayala Ave., the new Louis Vuitton store is one of the largest shops at the high-end Greenbelt 4.

The chic and elegant store was conceptualized by LVM's architecture department in Paris and carries LVM's full range of luxury products: suitcases, traveling bags and gorgeous ladies' handbags, pens, shoe collections for men and women, watches and jewelry.

Popular TV hosts **Angel Aquino** and **Daphne Oseña Paez**; actor and model **Diether Ocampo**; and pop diva **Anna Fegi** couldn't describe how they loved the merchandise.

The Tambour watch collection looked masculine and functional, yet elegant and refined. It is available in the original brown dials and the newly launched sandy shade.

The newly LV277 chronograph is sure to become a must-have among watch connoisseurs. Certain styles are available in smaller sizes for the women.

The new store has many eye-catching architectural details. The internal mall area, with its limestone wall and integral jewelry, has display windows and transparencies.

Louis Vuitton became a legend in the art of travel when it was founded in Paris in 1857.

Foremost among its clients was **Napoleon III's** wife, Empress **Eugenie**, who was the first grand dame to have a penchant for Louis Vuitton's creations. From then on, it's history, *palanggas*.

LVM today boasts of 314 exclusive shops in 50 countries. It is set to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year.

The party moved to Cats at the New World Renaissance Hotel, which was transformed into the ultimate Louis Vuitton party place. Guests were brought there by a gorgeous, snazzy fleet of ultra-luxurious BMW cars, emblazoned with the monogram LV in flowers on the windows.

Escorting *moi* were BMW's executives **Frankie Araneta** and **Mel de los Santos**. Mandarin orange, as found in Vuitton's Epi Soft collection, was predominant at Cats, giving the guests a feel of the LV Club. The place was even furnished with luxurious LV furniture flown in from Hong Kong and beyond.

For entertainment, Louis Vuitton jetted in The Twins, dancers from Argentina who impressed the crowd with their hip-hop and tap dancing. The Duo percussionists from New York dished out funky tunes.

Möet et Chandon champagne overflowed. Believe me, *palanggas*, many dropped out and were literally carried out for a breath of fresh air.

Well, that's what makes a great party, *n'est ce past?* At one point, headturner **Tina Pamintuan** was asked by one of the LVM honchos from Paris if he could get her a drink.

She said, "Yes, please, anything that's not free," which almost floored the VIP. He instead came back and gave her champagne.

DJs **Lucien Foort** from Paris, **Mano** from Manille and **Daniel Rowntree** from Sydney spun their own unique vibes, keeping us on the dance floors until 5 a.m. At that point, the hotel people practically had to sweep us all out.

This whole beautiful happening was definitely so Louis Vuitton and so French, *palanggas*. It was my sort of style.

THE BRAND MOVERS. Louis Vuitton Asia-Pacific executive vice president François Delage; LV Philippines general manager Gigi Mabanta; LV Malletier chair and CEO Yves Carcelle; Kit Zobel and LV managing director for operations Serge Brunschwig

THE FRENCH Baker's Johnlu Koa and fashionable wife Marilou of Escada

BUSINESSMAN Raj Sadhwani and wife, top model Apples Aberin

THE SOCIAL circle. Helen Ong, Philippine Tatler and Harrison Plaza's Irene Martel-Francisco, arts doyenne Tessie Luz and Mandarin Hotel's PR maven Charisse Chuidian

MICHAEL Salientes and renowned restaurateur Gaita Fores with LV gals Peachie Dickens and Sue Loughry

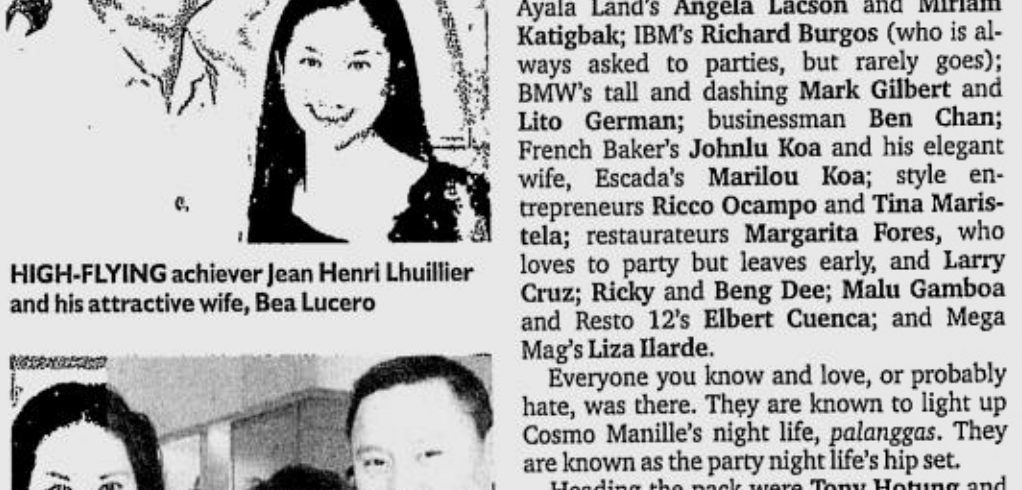
LILIBETH Cu-Unjieng with her hubby, Buboy Virata, and jet-setting socialite Josephine Knox

A TOAST to the best. Mme. Carolyn Dimond with her husband, British Ambassador Paul Dimond, and popular French Ambassador Renee Veyret

POPULAR couple. Attractive Carla Reyes and husband, well-liked restaurateur Al Tengco

HIGH-FLYING achiever Jean Henri Lhuillier and his attractive wife, Bea Lucero

HÄAGEN Dazs and Hunter Valley Wines royals. Attractive couple Ruth and Arnold Co flank PR queen Susan Joven.



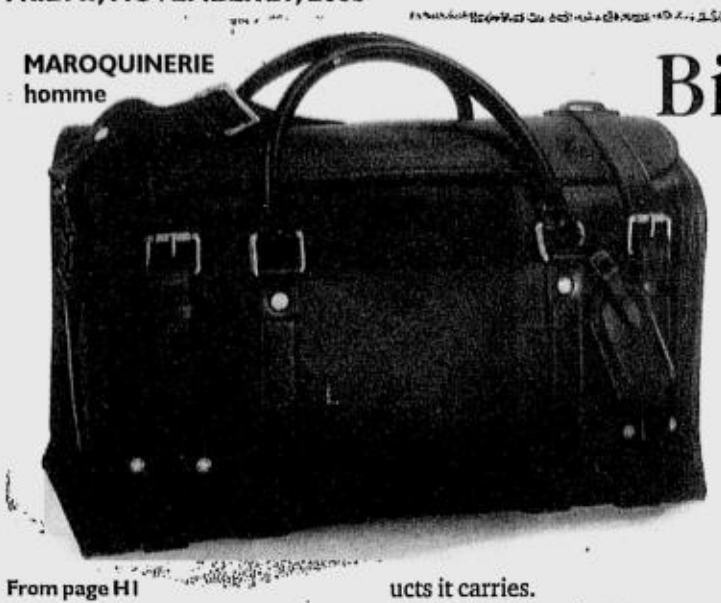
THE BEAUTIES and the energetic Secretary. Hip, young dames of the hour Carmen Delgado, Celine Lopez, Jenni Epperson, Mariel Santos, Rissa Mananquil-Samson, Kara Tolentino and Wendy Puyat with Energy Secretary Vince Perez (center)

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

Bigger home for most famous monogram



From page H1

time, however, he's able to create buzz to keep the market interested."

All the brands, including those under LVMH, are totally different in their approaches, he added. Each has its own strategy, positioning and team of designers.

Carcelle, who began his career as strategic director of LVMH 14 years ago, need not go far to illustrate how Louis Vuitton has grown and continues to grow through the years.

Ahead by 10 years

When nearly every luxury brand skipped the Philippines in favor of more affluent countries in the region, Louis Vuitton went ahead by opening its first store here 10 years ago at 6750.

From an initial 63 sq m, the store's floor area grew to 178 sq m in 2000. It not only grew in size, but also in the range of products it carries.

"We were the first to open our own store in Manila," said Carcelle.

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos must have been right when she once said that the Philippines is a rich country pretending to be poor. Proof? Louis Vuitton products continue to fly off the shelves despite the hard times.

A typical lady's bag, for example, doesn't come lower than P40,000. The brand's new line of men's watches, which was introduced only last year, costs P211,000 each.

A man's briefcase from the Damier collection costs P65,000, while a matching clutch bag can set a customer back by P33,000.

Universal brand

"We've been growing on the appetite of Filipinos for luxury products," said Delage. "I think they recognize Louis Vuitton's

BIGGER/ H4

Cardam's®
HOT SALE
at
40% OFF
Available at all Cardam's outlets nationwide!

HAVE A BRATZ MAKEOVER AND WIN FABULOUS PRIZES

Here's a piece of good news for young girls and teeners who are fanatics of the popular Bratz fashion dolls and who fancy themselves to be their look-alikes in personality, appearance and get-up someday.

They can now have the unique opportunity to transform their personality and appearance in the mold of Bratz icons Yasmin, Jade, Meygan, Cloe and Sasha through the "Bratz Makeover Contest" launched recently by Ban Kee Trading, Inc. at the Bratz Makeover Salon at Toy Kingdom, SM Megamall. The launch highlighted the opening of the "Bratz Passion for Fashion Exhibit.

Teen movie and TV celebrity Shaina Magdayao was special guest at the launch hosted by Chinggay Andrada.

To qualify for the Bratz Makeover Contest a customer must have a minimum purchase of P500 at any Bratz doll, play sets, pens, accessories, organizers and stationery sets.

The customer must present a proof of purchase for validation at any of the participating branches of Toy Kingdom and visit the Bratz Makeover Salon at Toy Kingdom at SM Megamall, 1-6 pm., on Nov. 15, 16, 22 and 23.

Qualified participants shall be entitled to a free makeover at the Bratz Makeover Salon corner, which shall include hair and makeup. They shall also don Bratz apparel of their choice.

Photos of the participants shall be taken after the makeover for display in the photo gallery for the duration of the contest until Nov. 26.

The finalist shall be chosen on Nov. 26 based on the following criteria: fashion sense (20%), overall projection (30%), photogenic appearance (15%) and Bratz getup (35%).

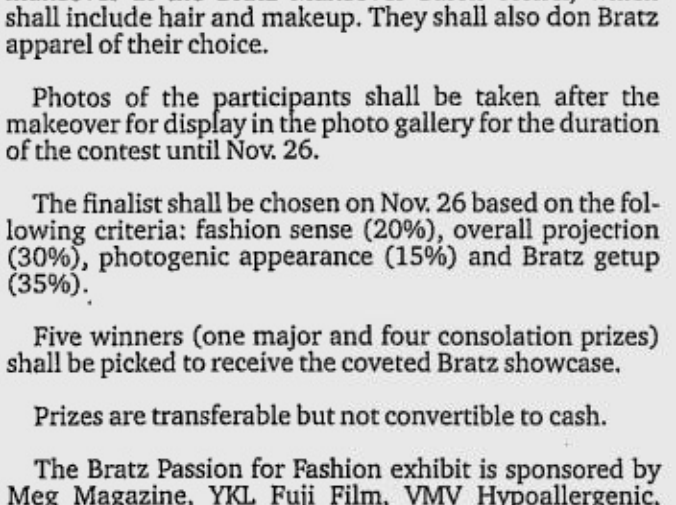
Five winners (one major and four consolation prizes) shall be picked to receive the coveted Bratz showcase.

Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

The Bratz Passion for Fashion exhibit is sponsored by Meg Magazine, YKL Fuji Film, VMV Hypoallergenic, Changhong TV, Shirts Depot, Banix Manufacturing, Southern Glory, TCDS, KFC and Mr. Donut.

Meanwhile, other Bratz weekend activities lined up for the month of November at Toy kingdom, SM Megamall and SM Southmall are: Nov. 15-16 - "Bratz Coloring Activity" / "Draw your Favorite Bratz"; Nov. 22-23 - Complete the Sentence "Bratz are Cool Because....."

Employees of Ban Kee Trading Inc. and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion which is valid in Greater Manila Area only.



SHAINA Magdayao with host Chinggay Andrada .

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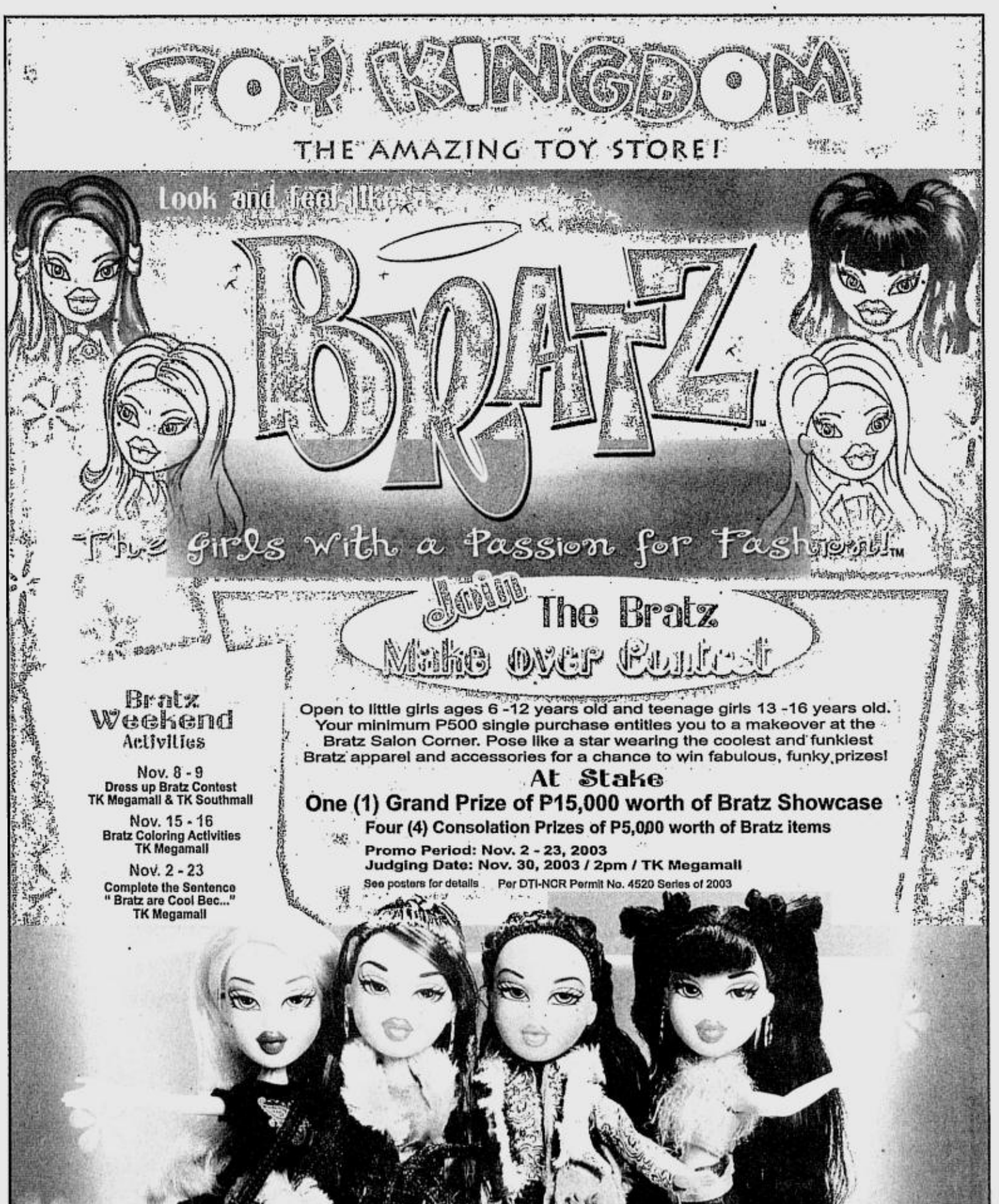
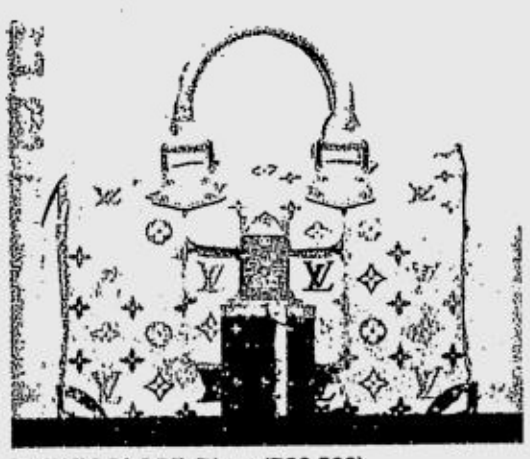




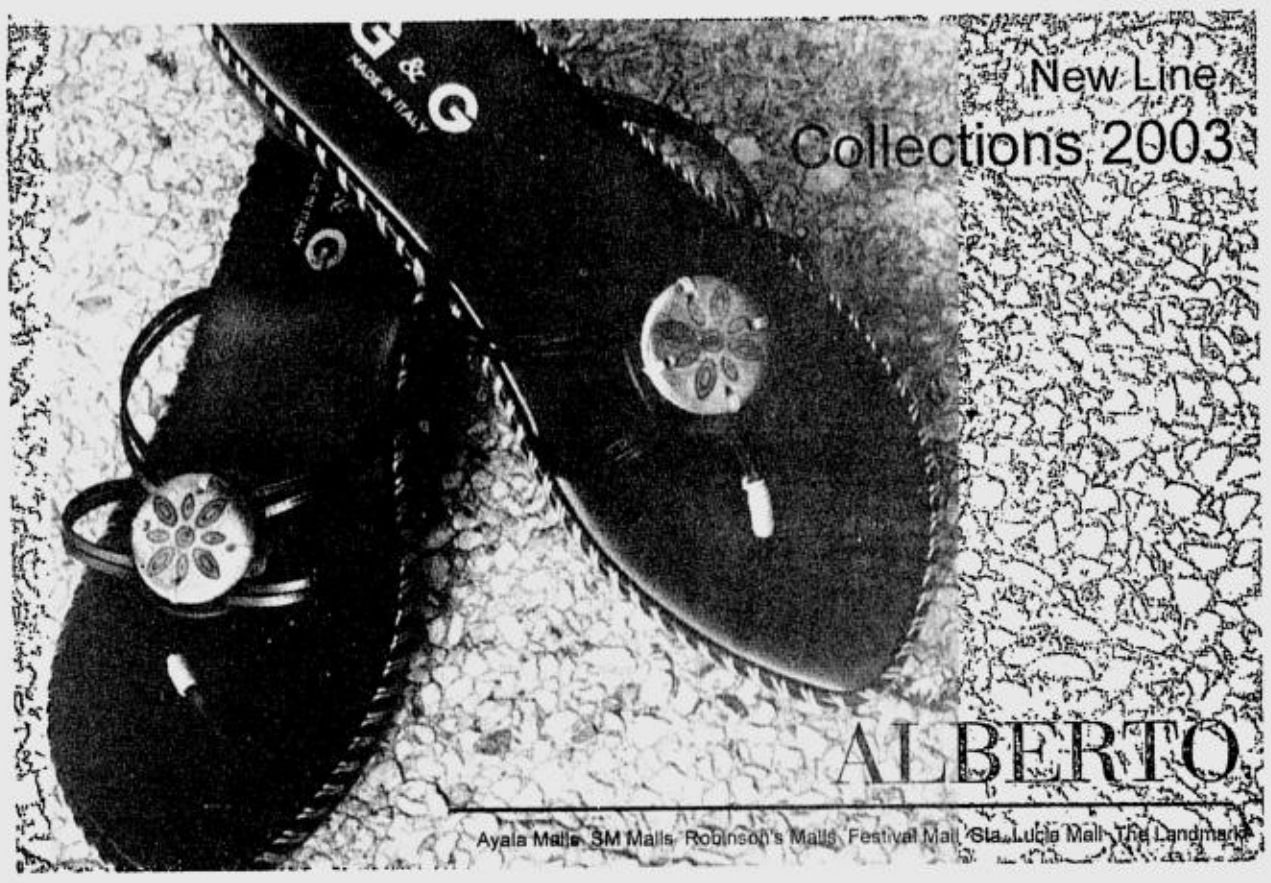
MULTICOLORE, Blanc (P88,500)

MULTICOLORE, Blanc and Noir (P68,500 each)

MAROQUINERIE homme

CALF leather boot

MONOGRAM Op Art



Bigger home for most famous monogram

From page H3

unique craftsmanship and innovative designs. They might be brand-conscious, but by and large Filipinos are quality-conscious."

Because of the quality of craftsmanship and design that goes into each item, Louis Vuitton's appeal, he added, cuts across regions, races and cultures.

"Somebody once asked me how it was to represent a global brand," said Delage. "I told him Louis Vuitton wasn't a global brand but a universal one because it appealed to peoples of all cultures."

GIGI Mabanta, country manager of Louis Vuitton in the Philippines

Gigi Mabanta, Louis Vuitton's country manager in the Philippines, also cited the legendary ability of Filipinos to keep abreast with trends as one of the reasons for the brand's continued success.

Items grouped under Louis Vuitton's classic monogram line are still among the store's bestsellers, but seasonal and trendier items mostly designed by Jacobs are also doing well.

"Filipinos consider buying a Vuitton as an investment," she said. "They first go for the basic LV [monogram], before buying trendier items."

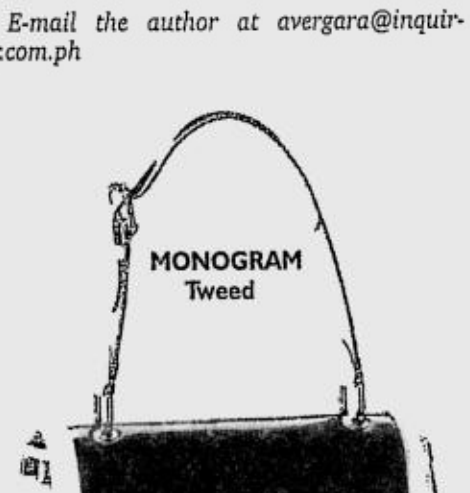
Aside from watches, Louis Vuitton has also introduced jewelry pieces—bracelets, pendants, necklaces. Jacobs himself designed one of its charm bracelets that can either be worn plain or spruced up with interesting knick-knacks.

Louis Vuitton will come up with more pieces, including high-end bracelets, before the end of 2004.

"We've always been inspired to conquer the world because of our origins," said Carcelle. "And that spirit will live on in the company."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

MONOGRAM Tweed



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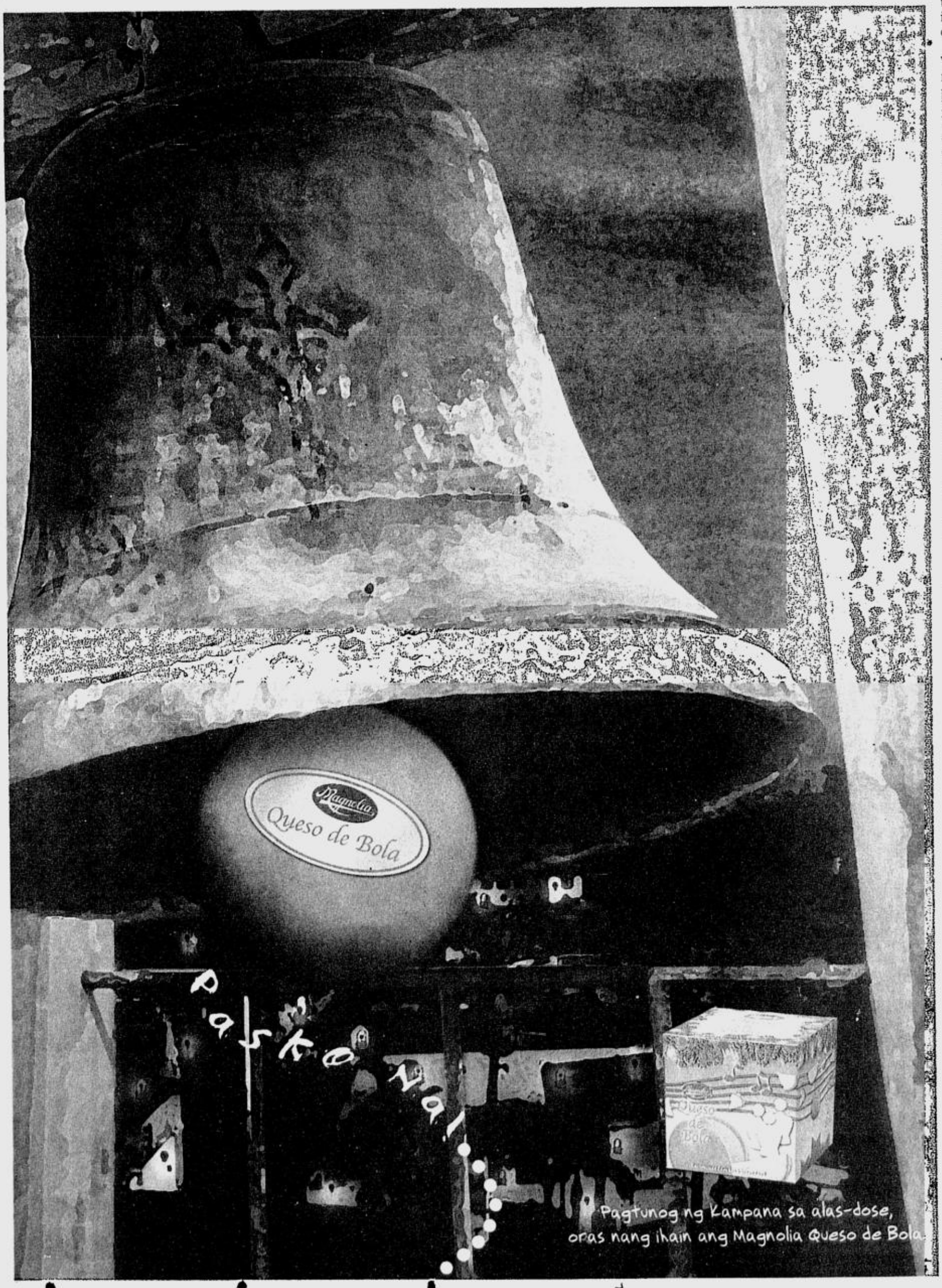

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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The glamour overdrive of today's fashion retailers and marketers could be missing a critical but spending market

Who looks after the needs of the working woman?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

HERE are some ego-blasting questions you, the corporate burnt-out rat racer, can ask yourself this holiday season—the period between ghoulish Halloween and Epiphany:

Can you see yourself in those fashion spreads of the lifestyle sections or the glossies? (Take note, neither the advertiser-press-release section nor the crime-busting Metro section.)

Can you walk into the boardroom in one of those deconstructed skirts where the front panel has no similarity whatsoever with the back, without reminding your boss that your performance to date is as asymmetrical to the company budget as your skirt?

Can you pull off a bustier or a noodle strap without a shawl or a stole?

Can you kick butt nine-to-five in a four-inch stiletto?

Can you say no to better-than-sex chocolate?

If your answer to all of the above is no, then it only means you're real, alive and one of millions of women who are neither models nor social x-rays. You're just one of the hardworking corporate stiffs whose figure yo-yos with stress and fad diets—and can't get into those clothes.

Fashion advertising and marketing today has put on the glitz and gloss, and hiked the glam X factor to the degree that it could be missing its target—the real-life corporate woman who earns her own dough and thus goes for value-for-money purchases (which could include some luxury brands) and whose usual day has no room for either Hippie, Bohemian, Goth, Lolita, Gypsy—just some of the looks that have prevailed in recent seasons. This, simply because she can't face her board, client or subordinates looking like any of the above.

While the Guccis, Louis Vuittons or Bulgaris of this world have in the bag the women who don't have to work (because their husbands, boyfriends or lovers do, legit or otherwise) but have tons of money to blow, the corporate or financially independent women, with growing social clout, are the critical mass—the market that can sustain a brand.

And in all this glamour overdrive, they are the ones whose real needs the fashion retail is glossing over.

No room for fantasy

Fashion retail today, in a way, is beginning to believe its own fantasy. Truth is, real women like us can't live in fantasy—neither gothic nor romantic; even our self-indulgence has to be well calibrated.

This is a point we want to make as advertising movers meet today in Baguio for the Ad Congress.

I realize this all the more when I sat down to lunch with a bank executive—female, thirtysomething, slim, fashionable, if not fashion-forward.

She buys top-of-the-line RTW such as Episode, Jessica, Anne Klein—brands which I've always believed have sizes and styles that fit.

When I asked her why she doesn't go to another popular store chain, she said, "They have too many of the same design, I might run into a lookalike."

Her bank's dress code is relatively strict. If she wears pants, they must be nothing trendy or fancy—in short, Armani-classic befitting her position. No showy buttons or embellishments, strictly subtle stitching.

If she must wear mules or high-heeled strappy sandals, she makes it a point to wear pants so her heel will not be exposed. Otherwise, it's pumps for her—comfortable shoes she shops for usually in Hong Kong. Her budget allows a Blahnik once in a while.

I was surprised to learn that if she wanted to wear really bright shirts underneath her suits, she must choose them well and sparingly—brights such as red, orange, fuchsia.

"I tried and wanted very much, so I had an orange shirt with its collar peeking out of the suit. You could spot me in the room. Sure you can do it, but it's more the exception than the rule," she said.

Could things be that classic or boring in the Makati business district? Are we not on the same wavelength as the upwardly mobile women or power women we seek to address?

I had to gather my staff at Metro after that, to put today's Filipino corporate woman under the microscope anew.

And—we must not forget: It is this market that buys brands and style magazines—every month.

I asked her what she wanted to see more on the racks: "Superbly tailored suits, pants, especially pants that are

WHO/13

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MALATE ☎ 521.8143 — MUSIC CIRCUIT, MEN OPPOSE — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757 — BLAKDYAK, BEAT BOX/HEADWORKZ — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM GABRIELA EVERY THURS. OF NOV.
BIÑAN ☎(049)511.7268 — HEARTBEAT/KOOLJACKS, EMMANUELLE — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
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JUPITER ☎ 890.4735 — TIA MARIA'S MUSIC ZONE, FIRST SIGHT — NO ENTRANCE FEE
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NOVEMBER 21 FRIDAY 38-39-42

Moore,

Moore,

Moore

MULTI-TALENTED international pop princess and Penshoppe girl Mandy Moore is conquering various worlds.

She is now in Manila with three major activities lined up for all her Filipino fans: a major concert last night at the Araneta Coliseum, and appearances at the MTV Music Summit at the Fort today and at Penshoppe's Meet and Greet tomorrow at SM Megamall.

Despite her busy lifestyle, Mandy is able to pursue a quasi-normal teenage life, experience young love and friendships while touring the globe. While filming in London recently, she found time to do her favorite activities, like shopping, eating out with friends and enjoying the beautiful sites.

When not in glamorous outfits, she makes sure she is as comfy as can be. Thus being photographed in Penshoppe's casual and sporty collection was a breeze.

As the world's pop princess, Mandy has successfully pursued her artistic goals in the last five years. She has released four best-selling albums. Her movies have been as successful as their soundtracks, especially the blockbuster "A Walk to Remember."

When it comes to music, Mandy's tastes are ever-changing, and this maturity exudes in her latest album, "Coverage," a compilation of what she says are some of the most incredible music she has ever heard.

Log on to www. penshoppe.com

The pop princess is here to conquer the town for local fashion label Penshoppe

PENSHOPPE image model Mandy Moore wears the latest collection from Penshoppe

Silver charms for Christmas

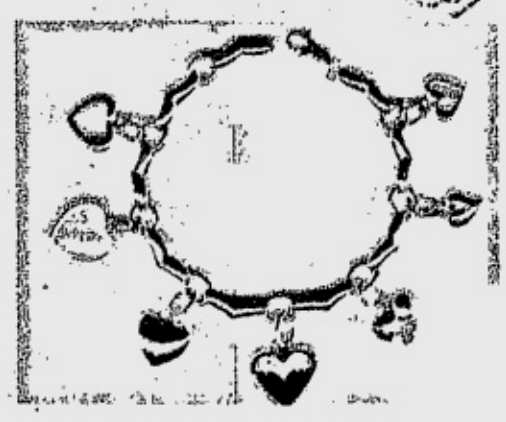
SHOPPING for Christmas gifts? Check out the sterling silver charm bracelets of Michelis with designs suited for all ages.

Charm bracelets are available in such styles as China Roots, All-Hearts, Chinese Coin, Chef's Delight, Bags, Garden Pleasures, Culture, Shoes, Music and Personal Growth.

Michelis silver jewelry uses semiprecious stones like onyx, rhodolite, agate, cetrine, peridot, topaz and amethyst.

Visit Michelis shops at Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Superstore Cubao, Greenbelt 1, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Hotel Makati, and Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Call 7516352.

BAGS Charm Bracelet



ALL-HEARTS Charm Bracelet

Who looks after the needs...

From page I1

comfortable and figure-friendly. Not boring, but with subtle touches."

Exactly what I thought today's independent women deserve. Stiff power dressing is sooo a decade ago.

Today's women must be down-to-earth, aggressive while being feminine and frilly. The more she earns, I like to think, the surer she becomes of her social and style identity, and that means more classic and sophisticated.

More options

In another lunch, a telecom executive who's as powerful and stylish as they come, confirmed what the banker said. She buys top-of-the-line and often at that, including luxury brands. Yet she's not fully satisfied with the current selections.

"There should be more options. I like to wear suits, but for a change, I want the right stripes, right fit of the skirt," she said. What she means is that the fabric and design range isn't that wide or imaginative.

I could have told her that the past few months I had been looking for just the right dark pinstripe suits, and I didn't find one. I found one or two pinstripe jackets but with solid black skirts that were too trendy. How about crisply tailored pinstripe trousers that will go from season to season? None.

Usually it's **Auggie Cordero** who'd whip up trouser ensembles for me—so clean, classic and well-fitted that I wore them (or kept them, depending on my weight) through a decade.

But since Auggie had been too busy lately, I tried RTW, and that being fruitless, I turned to men's fashion designer **Tonichi Nocum**.

Tonichi brought his design to his cutter and sewer, and there it was, the pinstripe suit and trouser.

As I did the fittings, Tonichi and his staff explained how deceivingly simple pinstripe suit/trousers could seem. In fact, they're a challenge to sew because the stripes must be sewn ruler-straight—from the lapel to the waistband and so on.

Perhaps it's about time women executives gave Filipino made-to-order designers a try, if they want their own right fit. These women can afford them because, given the prices of today's high-end brands, Filipino designers are relatively affordable, if not cheaper. One, however, must spare time for fittings.

It's the growing population of stylish working women that makes me believe perhaps, Philippine custom-made designers may be in for a fresh wave of business, if not a boom or renaissance such as what Auggie and the rest had in the '70s. That is, if our designers could get their hands on the right fabrics.

Indeed, there's more to the needs and demands of today's working woman than meets the eye. Fashion marketing and retail could be overlooking some of them.

The retailers out there could be missing the forest for the trees, trying to ram down trends and fantasies that don't suit the lifestyle—and the hips—of today's high-earning Filipina.

Shopping relief

Speaking of shopping, HSBC has a new product for this market. Its newly launched Red Mastercard will let you buy stuff at Stores Specialist outlets and Rustan's, among many stores, over a six-month layover plan, with zero interest.

Now that's a good break, if I saw one.

Foundation for Filipinas

Thanks to Essences' **Rhoda Campos**, I discovered this makeup line that's perfect for Metro Manila—the heat and grime.

You very well know liquid foundation hardly works when your face is bound to turn oily through the day. I've been looking for a truly non-oil foundation that's in-between a cream, powder and liquid— and that hides the pores. All these problems are common among Filipinas.

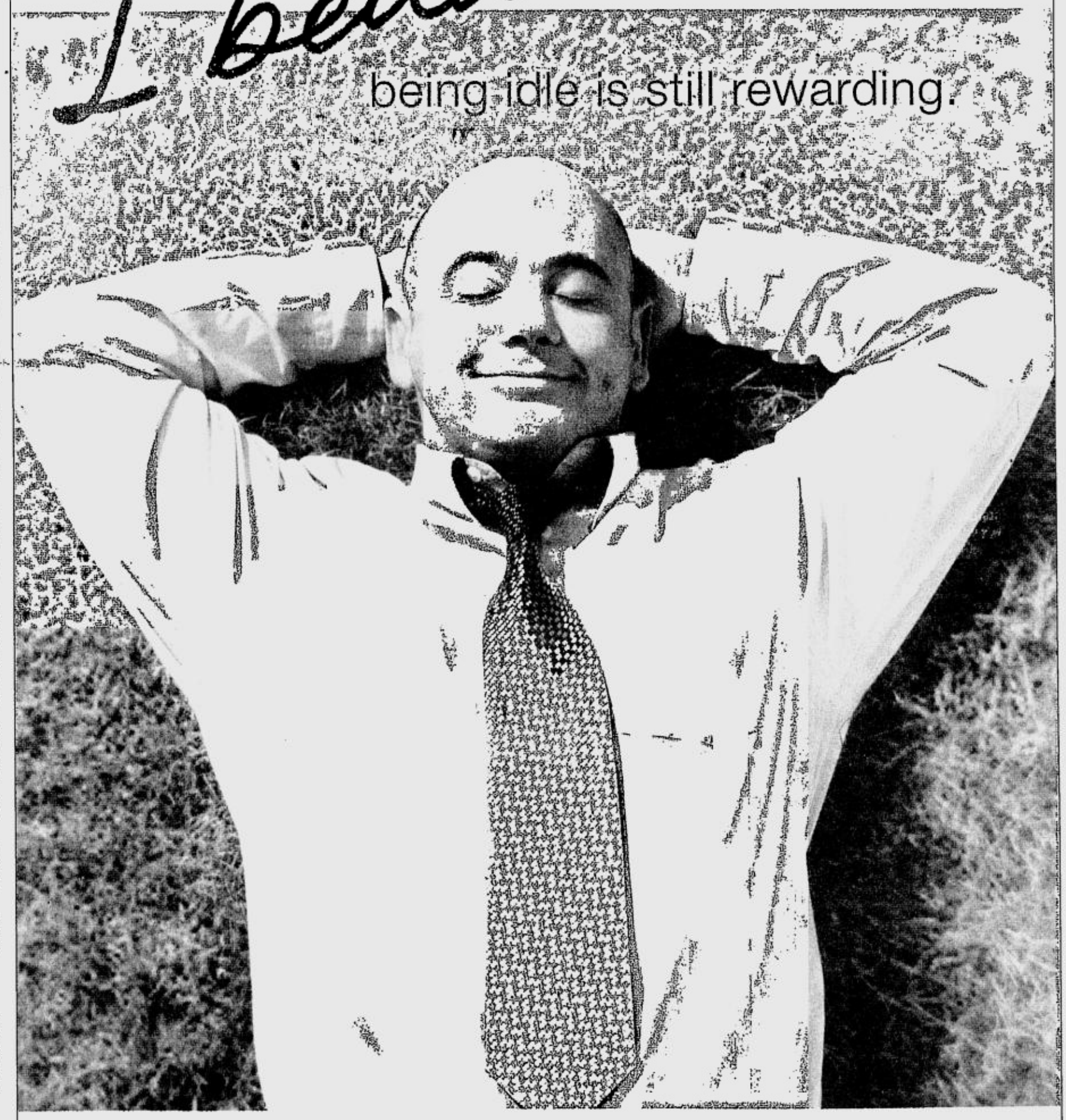
Rhoda pointed me to Joey New York at Rustan's Essences—a line developed by New Yorker **Joey Rhoer** precisely because she has oily skin with bothersome pores. When you apply its liquid foundation, it spreads out and feels like powder—dry, fine and smooth. Its pore-minimizer liquid tightens the skin.

I'm surprised that fashionistas don't talk about this line. It's heaven-sent for Filipinas, and for now, it's one's cosmetic secret.

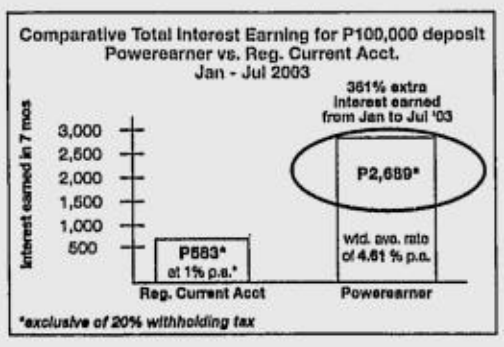
E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

Standard Chartered

I believe being idle is still rewarding.



Comparative Total Interest Earning for P100,000 deposit
Powerearner vs. Reg. Current Acct.
Jan - Jul 2003



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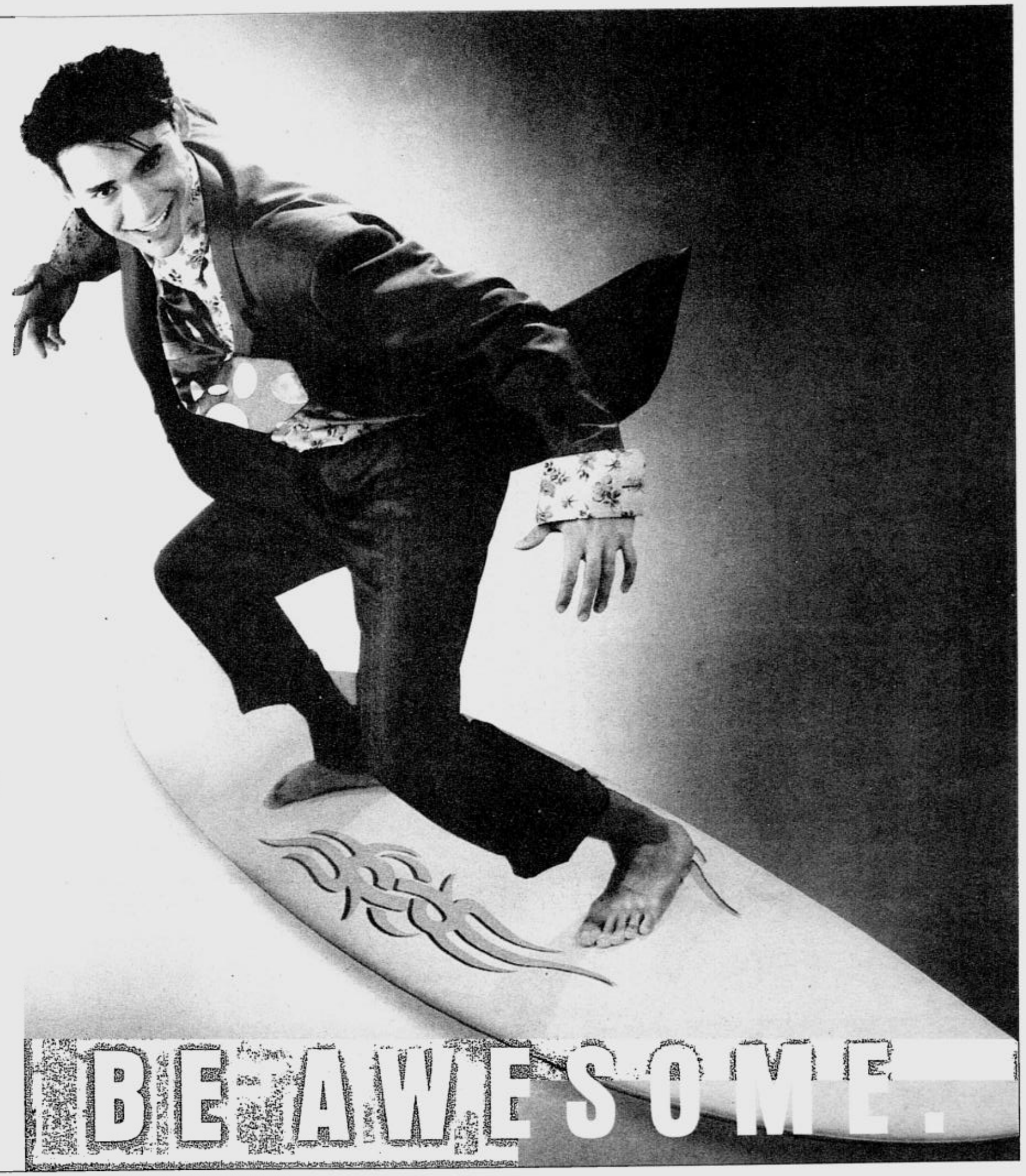

BE AWESOME.

Christmas fairs and bazaars slated

PHILIPPINE Booksellers Association, Inc. and Ayala Center present Christmas Books and Gifts Fair on Nov. 27-30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Mon.-Thurs.) and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Fri.-Sun.) at lower level, Ayala Mall, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati. All types of bargain books, including trade and pocketbooks, references, children's books, stationery by Merit, religious products by Quadriga will be sold.

GOINGS ON

BAZAAR. The International Consumers Bazaar will be held on Dec. 5-Jan. 5, 2004 at the Casino Filipino grounds in Parañaque, right beside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. At least 100 gift packs will be given daily to lucky customers. Daily singing comedy acts contests and audience participation games will be featured. Call 8731511/ 8737783/ 8175107/ 0917-8902363/0917-9846940.

PROJECT. Galing Pilipino Movement presents Pamaskong Galing Pilipino project which features the fundraising Light a Tree for Unity On Dec. 16, 7 p.m.. The trees will be lighted at Luneta Park. Call 6313932/ 6331089/ 6872249/ 6872259.

TELETHON. ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. and Knowledge Channel Foundation present Call for a Better World 2, a telethon to raise funds for the Filipino child. The event will be held on Dec. 7, 5 p.m.-3 a.m. E-mail foundation@abs.pinoycentral.com.

LECTURE. Highlights of the first marketing study on Philippine Mangoes in Europe as well as insights on how Philippine mangoes made it to Europe's major supermarket chains will be presented by Louise Baterna during Chem's Asian Ethnic Foodfest in Manila and the 5th National Mango Congress in Cebu. Baterna's presentation during the Asian Ethnic Foodfest is set on Nov. 23, 1 p.m. at the seminar room of World Trade Center. The 5th National Mango Congress will be held on Nov. 26, 9 a.m. at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

SALE. Expo Exchange will hold Fitness and Lifestyle Madness Sale on Nov. 21-23 at Greenbelt 1, Makati. Call 8300751.

BAZAAR. F.O.B. Manila 1: A Holiday Treat opens on Dec. 6 and 7 while F.O.B. Manila 2 is slated on Dec. 13 and 14. The two events will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 4371009/ 4389974/6479059/ 0917-5264812.

SEARCH. The Bayanihan launches its search for new female dancers with ages ranging from 15 to 23 and at least 5'4" in height and males with ages 17-25 and at least 5'8" in height. Call 5251685/5366602.

WORKSHOP. Adarna House will mount Masayang Magbasa workshop for parents and teachers on "Beginning reading" on Nov. 22 and 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Goodwill Bookstore Glorietta, Kiddie Camp. Call 3723548.

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Turning two

TABU Swimwear, owned and operated by Amanda Griffin and Isabel Engwa, marks its second anniversary on Nov. 26, 8 p.m., at the NBC Tent with "An Affair With Tabu."

Celebrity models will don Tabu Swimwear's exciting new lines for Christmas and 2004. The show will present luxury destinations around the world, with Baileys, Ponds and Smart as sponsors. At its helm are Robby Carmona and his team at Saga Events.

The after-show party will feature international DJ Greg Pagneux.

Tabu Swimwear is also presenting its image models for 2004: Cindy Kurleto, Rissa Mananquil-Samson, Sarah Tan, Cristina Garcia and Amanda Griffin.

Tabu Swimwear boutique is located on the upper level of the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza.

AMANDA Griffin

CRISTINA Garcia

SM City BAGUIO 2ND FLOOR

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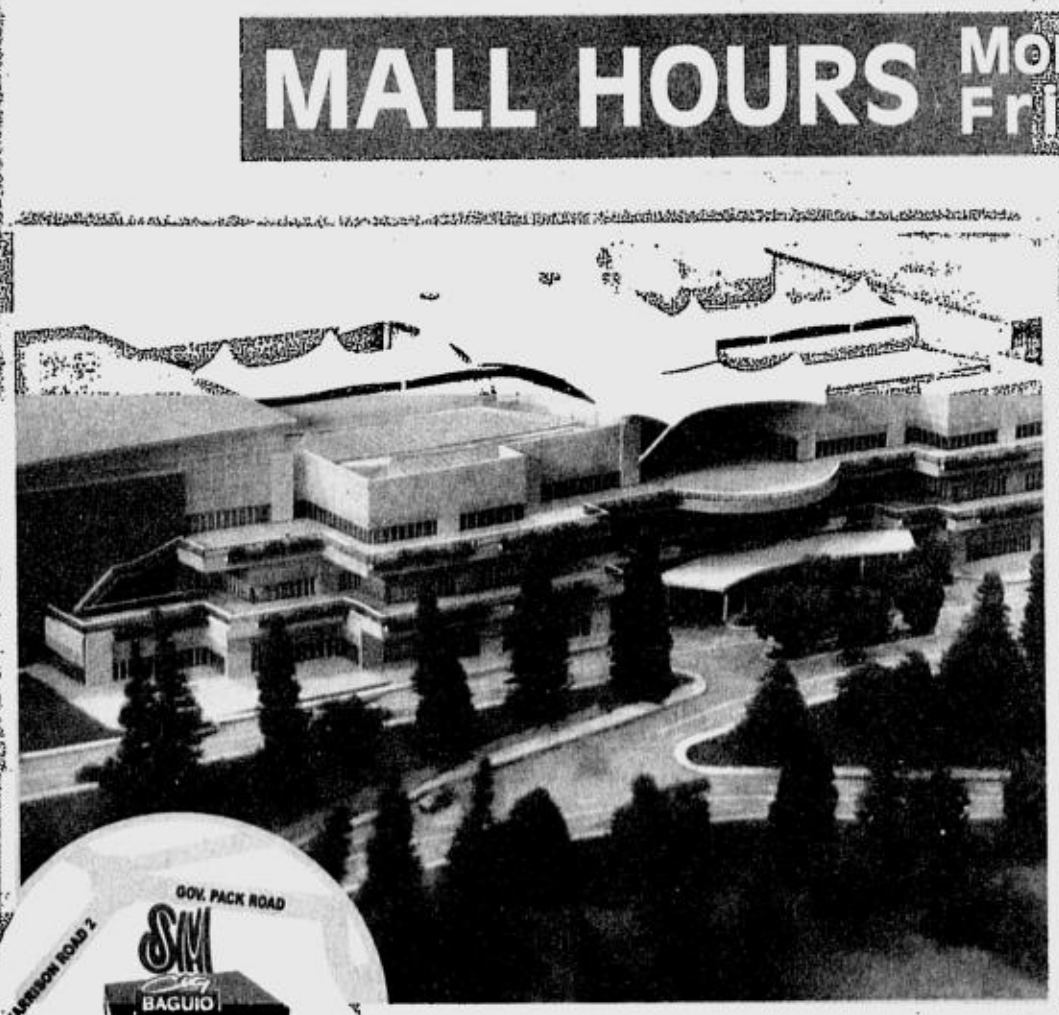
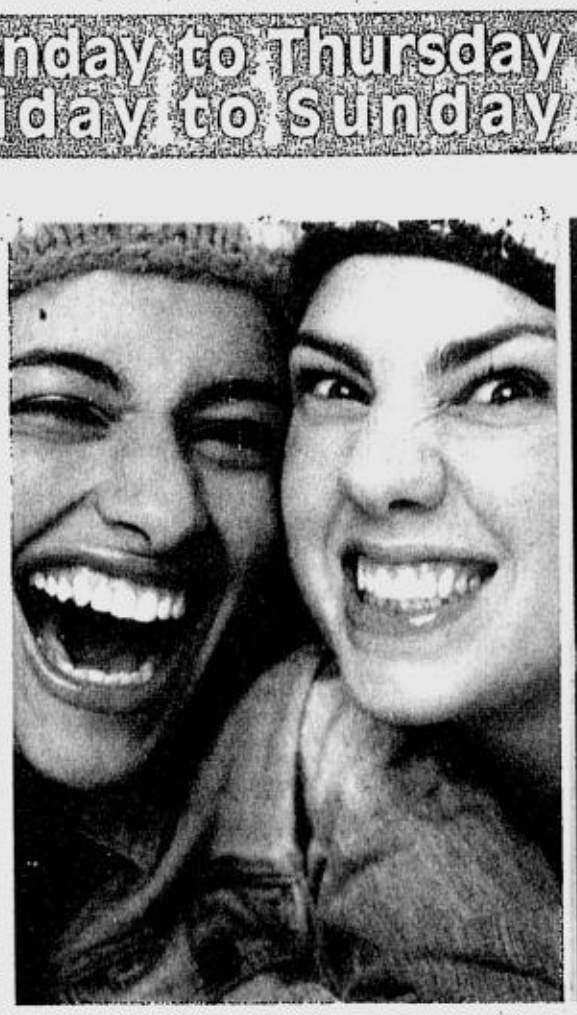
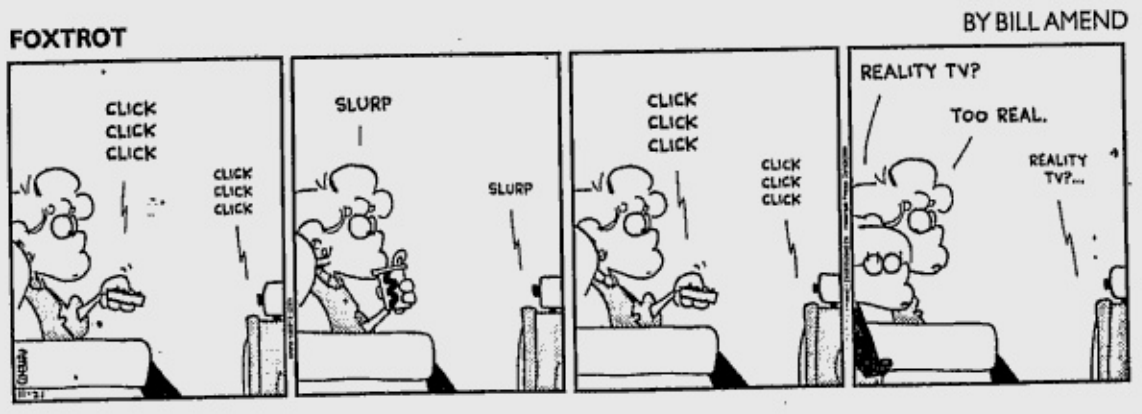




LUNETA HILL, UPPER SESSION ROAD, BAGUIO CITY

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



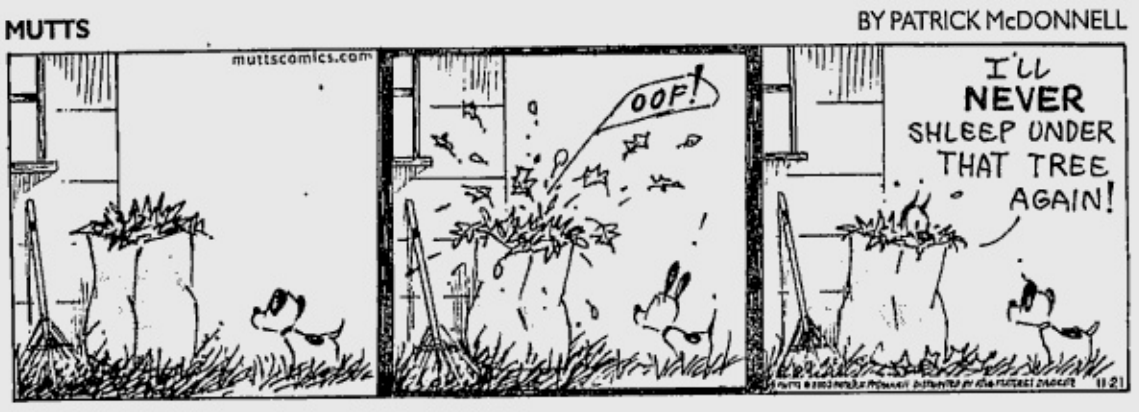
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

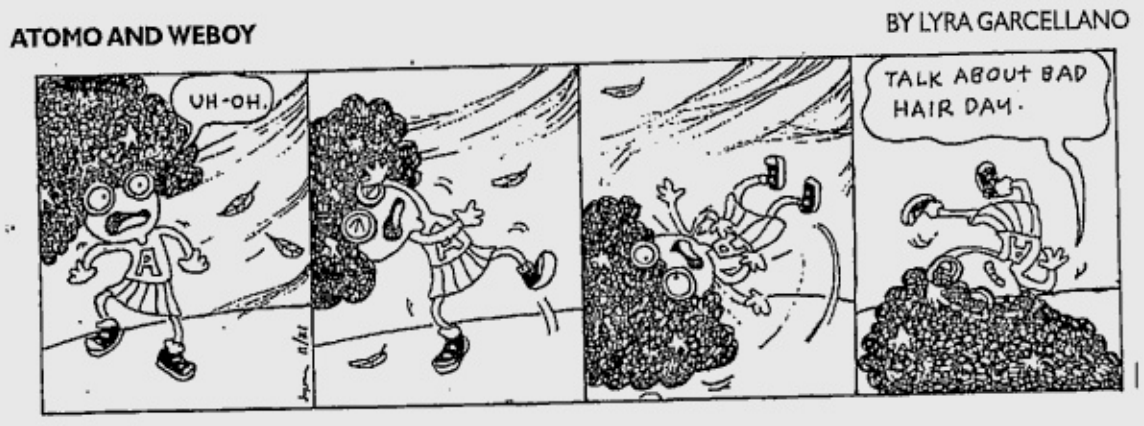
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a casual elegance that others admire. You move with grace. You are modern, up-to-date and well-informed. You have an avid interest in everything around you, but sometimes you have to prove yourself to someone. Your lively mind will keep you youthful. This year your focus is on your closest relationships and partnerships.
Birthdate of: Nicolette Sheridan, actress; Marlo Thomas, actress; Goldie Hawn, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be prepared for a few surprises today. They could be related to money that you owe someone or possessions that you own in conjunction with someone. (Just be calm.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You don't want anyone telling you what to do today. You feel highly independent, and you want to make important decisions for yourself. Enough said.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can expect some disruptions and completely unpredictable situations at work today. Systems could crash, or machinery might fail. In the end, things will be for the better.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Romantic spats and upsets are likely today. But we all know that the road of true love is not paved. Be vigilant about potential accidents with children.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Family relationships might be difficult today. You could resent restrictions placed upon you. The truth is that all families incur obligations and responsibilities. It's a fact of life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an accident-prone day. Take extra precautions in everything you do. Allow extra travel time in all your plans. It's a guarantee that your daily schedule will be interrupted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be careful about making spontaneous purchases today. You love beautiful things because you care about your surroundings. Nevertheless, knee-jerk reactions today are suspect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel willful, independent and rebellious today. You refuse to be dictated to. Because of this, dealings with children and family members could suffer. Patience is your savior.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Dealings with the government and large institutions could surprise you today. Similarly, services from large institutions could be interrupted or cut off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with friends who say things they probably don't really mean. People are inclined to speak without thinking today. In fact, quite a few people have foot-in-mouth disease.

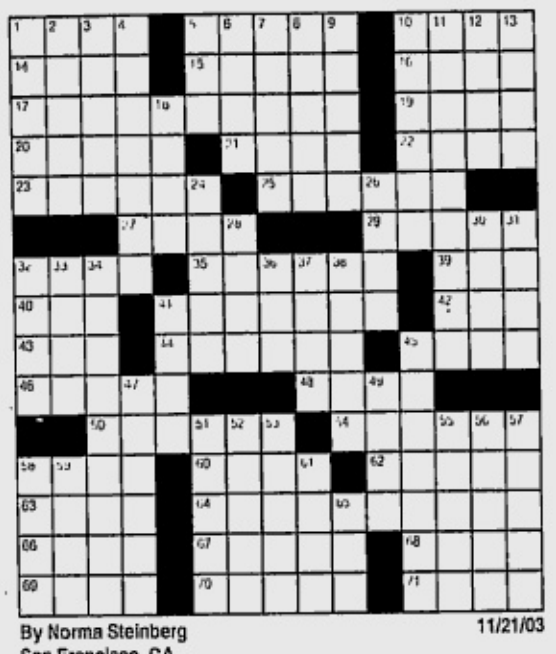
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Bosses and parents are unpredictable today. (And just when you thought things were improving.) Just go with the flow. Do not wake the sleeping giant; do not poke the dragon.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have the spirit of a restless adventurer today. You want to break free from restrictions and boundaries. Even though you think this way, you'll nevertheless have to be realistic.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Old-time club
5 Fabler of yore
10 Hey, you!
14 Successor to Cinerama
15 Treasure hunter's find
16 Sicilian volcano
17 Family secrets
19 Raise
20 Houston pro
21 Sort
22 Alternative to 9
23 Sheep farmer's tools
25 Attack
27 Corporate bigwigs
29 Cries out loud
32 Tip
35 Intense competition
39 Lubricate
40 Pindar piece
41 Broad-based
42 Colombian gold
43 Actor Ayres
44 Make a minister
45 Spill the beans
46 Important
48 Rate of progress
50 Come into view
54 Instrumental composition
58 Hall and Oates hit, "__ Smile"
60 Yemeni or Saudi
62 Danger
63 Pipe down!
64 Nearly imperceptible
66 Surface measure
67 '50s candidate Stevenson
68 Hooked on
69 Legendary Giant
70 Auditions
71 Soviet news agcy.

DOWN
1 King with a golden touch
2 Mennonite sect
3 __ blanche
4 Draw out
5 City in GA
6 Composer Satie
7 Actress Braga
8 Parts of ranges
9 Remains unresolved
10 Iran, formerly
11 Cleaning aid
12 Cinch
13 Sourish
18 Yesteryear
24 Sedate
26 First sibling
28 Beach composition
30 Old Italian bread?
31 Untidy diner
32 Actress Celeste
33 R&D product
34 Garden State
36 "__ and Sympathy"
37 Stumble
38 Turner and Cantrell
41 Al or Tipper
45 Fund-raiser
47 Poncas' relatives
49 Facsimile
51 Moroccan capital
52 Test score
53 Viscounts' superiors
55 Athlete's job site
56 Leans
57 Countertenors
58 Phony
59 Distinctive air
61 Kerouac's generation
65 Fleur-de-__



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
11/21/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

G	O	B	I		S	H	E	B	A		T	O	A	D
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MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

FOOD editor in chief Norma Chikiamco receives the Consumer's Choice Award for outstanding service as the leading culinary magazine in the country. The award was presented by the Consumer's League of the Philippines. Photo shows (from left) Teresita Vintuan, national nominations chair; Joy Belmonte, chairperson, QC Associate Ladies Foundation, Inc.; Lourdes Lero, awards presentors' chair; Chikiamco; Dante de Guzman, QC 3rd district councilor; and lawyer Andrito Teleron, legal and board of jurors chair.

7 WOMEN HOLD FUNDRAISING BAZAAR

Venture 7 Christmas Bazaar will be held on Nov. 23 and Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel InterContinental Manila. Tickets can be bought at the entrance. Venture 7 is spearheaded by Pili Aquino, Celine Bautista, Fanny Blanco, Lita Gelano, Chit Gohu, Consul Fortune Ledesma and Linda Villadelgado. These women have been raising funds for their individual charities like the Makabata Foundation and Nazareth Home for Street Children and granting scholarships to deserving students. Call 8103307/3723083.

Workshop on grief management

PASSING Through Grief seminar is set on Nov. 28-30 at Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City. Workshop aims to help those who have lost their loved ones cope with their grief. Family ministry counselors will assist participants. Call 6471186 or 0917-4172774.

GOINGS ON

CONTEST. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting entries for the 2004 PBBY Alcala Prize. Prizes will be awarded during National Children's Book Day in July 2004. Call 3723548 or e-mail pbby@adarna.com.ph.

TRAINING. The Hari Om Tat Sat Hermitage will conduct an intensive training on Reiki First Degree on Nov. 22 and Reiki Second Degree, Nov. 30, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at UP College of Nursing, 2/F seminar room, Pedro Gil St., Manila. Call 7422767/0920-9088120.

CONTEST. The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company-Directories Philippines Corp. Telephone Directory Cover Visual Art Competition pays tribute to the country's young people with this year's theme, The Filipino Youth—Making a Difference. Winners will be announced on Feb. 4, 2004 at Ayala Museum. Finalists will have their entries on exhibit at Ayala Museum until Feb. 29, 2004.

CONVENTION. Photoworld Manila 2004, a photo convention and trade exhibit, will be held on Feb. 25-March 1 at Glorietta, Ayala Center and Asian Institute of Management. Call 8137420/8435341 or e-mail ppfpwm@pacific.net.ph.

SEMINAR. Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold a seminar on Creative Writing, Simple and Easy on Dec. 6, 13 and 20, 9-11 a.m. Call 8426665/8093050/0917-6297718.

EXHIBIT. Festival Mall holds a furniture exhibit until today. The designs of Ana Margarita Cuervo, Jenny Lozada, Nina Malvar, Minette Fajardo, Margie Escolin and Aida Concepcion-Caluag are displayed. Call 6312859.

ENTERTAINMENT. Streetscape in Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong presents Hotdog and The Boyfriends on Nov. 21; Rage, Nov. 22; Mulatto, Nov. 28; Orange and Lemons and Fursurkle, Nov. 29. Call 6337851.

SHOW. SM Megamall features The Wonderful Christmas Gift and Food Show and The Great Christmas Toy on Dec. 17-21 at Megatrade Hall 2 in Mandaluyong. Call 8129099/8123973.

FESTIVAL. Star City at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex will mount Pamaskong Aliwan, a Christmas festival of lights on Dec. 11-13. Call 8326228/40.

CONFERENCE. The Japan International Cooperation Agency and Department of Education will conduct a mid-year assessment and consultation conference on the Project for Strengthening of Continuing School Based Training Program for Elementary and Secondary Science and Mathematics Teachers. The conference will be held on Nov. 25-27 in Cebu City.

EXHIBIT. A Mourning Couture Collection will be showcased in Silent Moments, a Philippine exhibit on death care industry, on Nov. 22-23 at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati. Call 8207879/8201570.

EVENTS. Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong presents a musical event on Nov. 22 at Grand Atrium with John Lesaca and Emi Munji. Valen Valero will feature his recent works on Nov. 22-Dec. 5. Call 6337851.

AWARDEE. AVSurfer.com received the People's Choice Award for the e-commerce category in the recent 6th Philippine Web Awards.

PROMO. For every P1,000 purchase of Tribal Gear apparel, you can get a free P550 ticket to the LimpBizkit Live in Manila concert on Dec. 9 at the Ultra open field. Promo runs until Dec. 8.

SALE. Federal Hardware, a one-stop US style hardware store, is now holding its Christmas sale. Christmas decorations such as trees, tree trim items, star tree toppers and Christmas wreaths are offered at 50-75 percent off and Buy 1 Take 1 deals. For less than P900, you can bring home a high-quality Christmas tree. Call 8931663 or visit their flagship store at 2250 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Federal Hardware branches are also located at Angeles City, Bocaue, Taytay, Cainta, Commonwealth, Cubao, E. Rodriguez, Las Piñas, Biñan, San Pablo City, Bacoor, Imus, Dasmariñas, Makiling, Sucat and Alabang Town Center.

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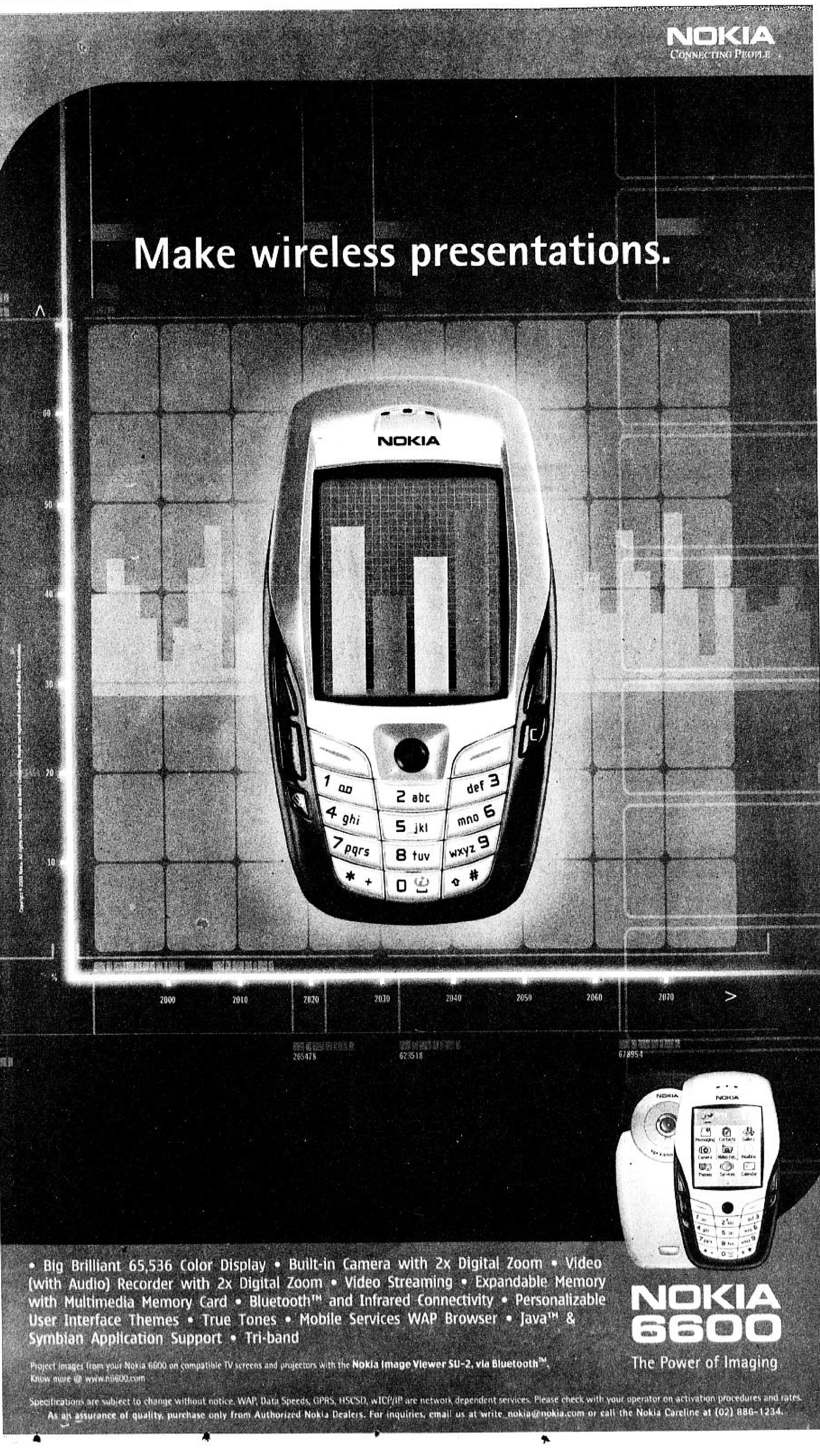
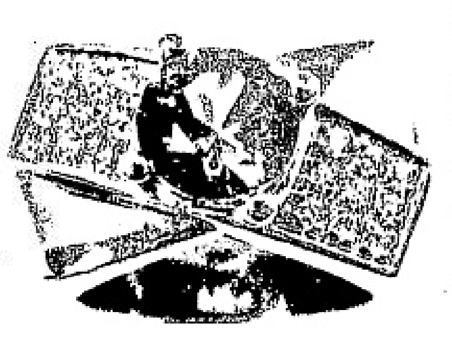
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 4586, series of 2003

TIMELESS MASTERPIECES
From renowned jewelry maker Tiffany & Co. come earrings, necklaces, bangles and timepieces for women who truly enjoy beauty and fine craftsmanship. (Leftmost photo) Necklace (P25,000), earrings (P16,000), bangles (big, P21,000; small, P17,000) from the Tiffany Nature Collection; dress from Abs Evening, shawl from Wonderful Wraps; (second photo from left) Tiffany Cocktail Watch (P487,600) goes well with earrings (P131,000) and a necklace (P92,000) of platinum and diamonds from the Double Loving Heart Collection of Paloma Picasso, clothes by Diane Von Furstenburg; (third photo from left) earrings (P450,000) and necklace (P636,000) from the Tiffany Sunburst Collection, ring (P145,000) and bracelet (P755,000) from the Tiffany Victoria Collection. Tiffany has also come out with men's watches (above) Tiffany Mark Watch: Quartz Chronograph (P138,000); clothes by Façonnable. Tiffany & Co. jewelry are exclusively available at Rustan's Makati.





RING in 18-k white gold with one pink spinel plus 18 brills

Two new season sparklers

SWISS master jeweler Hans Brumann adds color, sparkle and style to the holiday season with the introduction of two new gemstones in the market—sapphire and spinel.

Sapphire is the non-red variety of corundum, the second hardest natural mineral. Known for its durability, sapphire has a variety of colors that includes blue-purple, green, yellow, clear, orange and pink-orange.

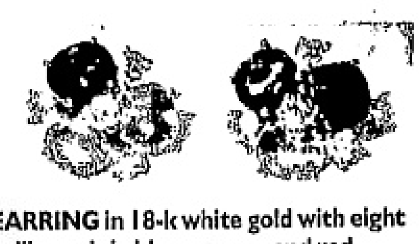
Spinel, one of the hardest minerals, is a favorite of gem dealers and collectors because of its brilliance, hardness and wide range of colors, including red, orange, yellow, dark green, blue, purple and pink.

Over the years, diamonds and pearls have been the objects of Brumann's designs. This time, he will bring sapphire and spinal closer to the hearts of gemstone lovers by combining both classical and contemporary designs that will keep up with today's trends. Some designs will feature pearls, diamonds and other precious stones, with an emphasis on outstanding workmanship.

An exclusive preview of the gemstones will be held on Dec. 11, 6 p.m. at the Lifestyle Wing, ground floor of the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati City. Gemstone lovers can catch a glimpse of multicolored sapphires—blue sapphires from Burma and Thailand, pink sapphire, Sri Lankan sapphire, star sapphire, yellow sapphire, red and pink spinels.

The event will also feature a mini fashion show with top lady executives donning the collection. After the exclusive preview, the sapphire and spinel collection will continue to be displayed until Dec. 17.

Both Hemm Hans Brumann boutiques at The Podium and Rockwell will soon showcase the precious stones.



EARRING in 18-k white gold with eight brills, and six blue, orange and red fancy-colored sapphires

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Mixing it all up

MIX delivers 11 hot looks and more

FLORAL dress by Tracy Reese (P16,499) and shoes by Anne Klein (P9,949)

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

A WOMAN'S wardrobe is dictated by her tastes and needs.

From her morning walk, she sheds her Juicy cashmeres and slips into a power suit for a day at the boardroom. At dusk, the severe corporate costume is cast off in favor of a coquettish little black dress, and she instantly morphs into a different persona. Same woman, different skirt.

One woman alone requires varied looks to see her through the day. Different women have different preferences and personalities. There are the sporty, the trendy, the bohemian, the feminine, the sophisticated and the in-between.

With 16 fashionista labels to play with, MIX owner and former model Tina Maristela-Ocampo effortlessly puts together 11 looks that illustrate the possibilities offered by the boutique for every fun, fearless female. MIX women are so mixed that the shop carries brands that are diverse and eclectic.

For the denim-loving gal, there are Habitual, Joie Jeans, Paper Cloth & Denim and Joe's Jeans, which deliver from basic boot-cuts to cargoes to minis to jean jackets.

MIXING/ K2

GREEN camisole by Max Studio (P3,649), white tank by Max Studio (P3,099), denim capri pants by Juicy Couture (P8,199), red biker jacket by Adidas (P4,995) and shoes by Kors by Michael Kors (P9,049)

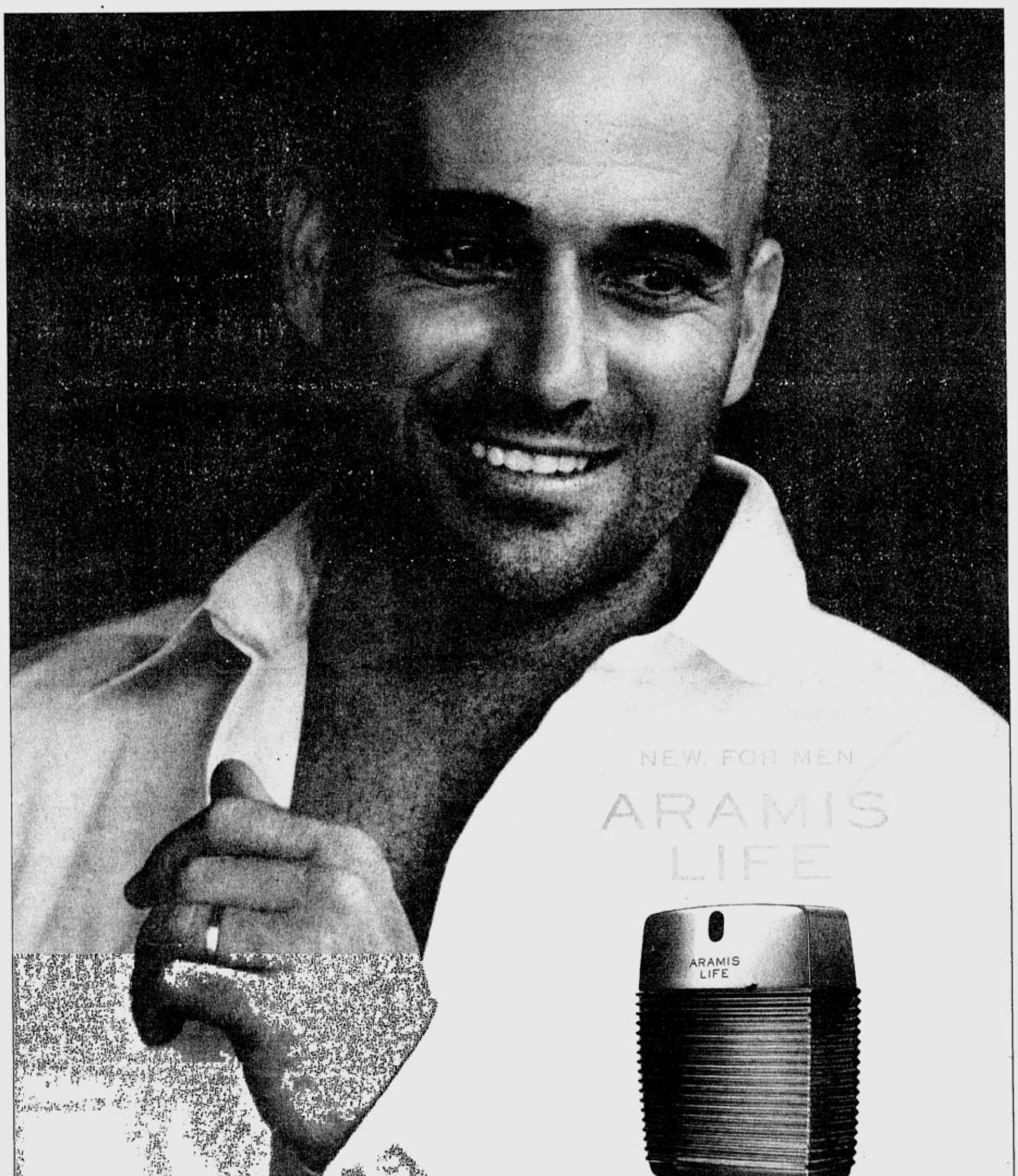
BUDDHA dress by Vivienne Tam (P15,899), envelope bag by Rafe New York (P8,249) and shoes by Anne Klein (P11,499)

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

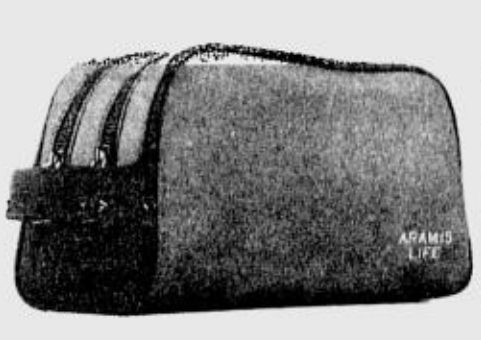
ANGELENE AGUILAR

Get a chance to see the refreshing sight on your TV screens in person. Catch Angelene Aguilar as she visits Robinsons Place Imus. It's a must see spectacle that only happens here at Robinsons.

ROBINSONS Place IMUS



LIFE. IT'S A GREAT GAME.
ANDRE AGASSI



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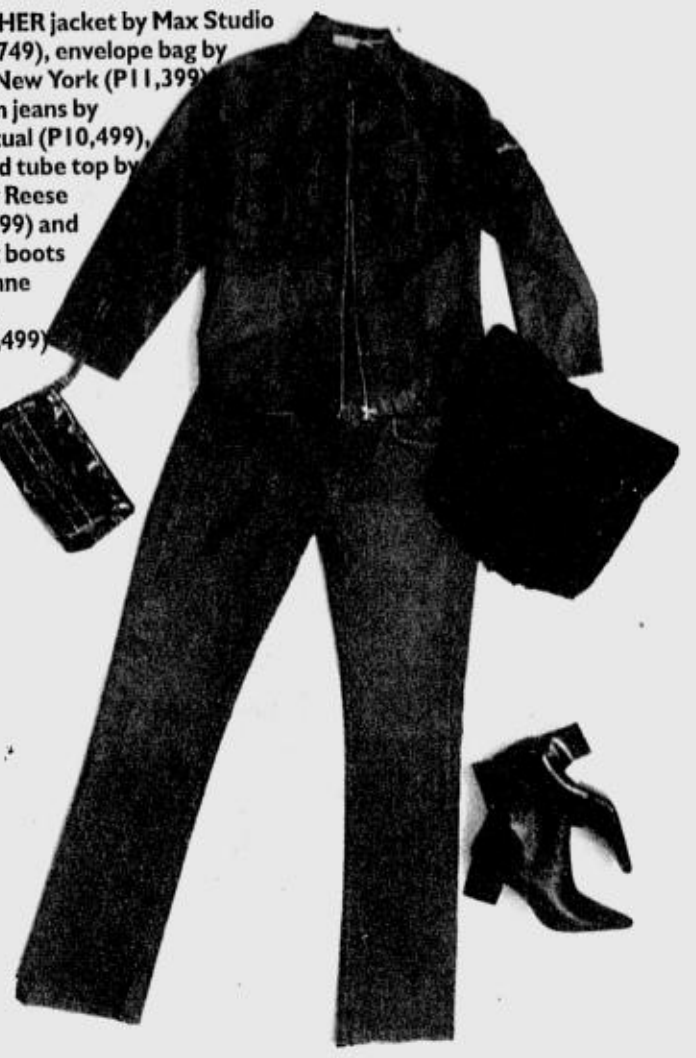
Robinsons, Tel. No. 528 1440

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3407 Series of 2003

CARGO pants by Joie Jeans (P6,649), beige camisole by Max Studio (P3,049), wraparound top by 2Katayone Adeli (P15,949), white jacket by Joie Jeans (P9,099), suede bag by Rafe New York (P20,649) and denim shoes by Kors by Michael Kors (P8,499)

LEATHER jacket by Max Studio (P26,749), envelope bag by Rafe New York (P11,399), denim jeans by Habitual (P10,499), ruffled tube top by Tracy Reese (P3,499) and black boots by Anne Klein (P13,499)



PATENT leather bag by Rafe New York (P20,499), camisole top by Poleci (P4,499), sleeveless tee by Joe's Jeans (P4,299), green pants by Joe's Jeans (P8,799), denim jacket by Juicy Couture (P14,949) and shoes by Kors by Michael Kors (P8,099)

Mixing it all up

When it comes to looking right, no MIX price seems too high for the fashionista

From page K1

Sassy and sexy tops—lacy camisoles, wrap blouses—and dresses come from 2Katayone Adeli, Max Studio, Vivienne Tam and Tracy Reese. The labels whip up ultra-feminine dresses. Trina Turk lends chic and softness in otherwise staid corporate wear.

MIX pampers footsies with the best-selling Kors by Michael Kors, chic Kate Spades, the ever-reliable Anne Kleins, and hip-again Adidas.

Meanwhile, the bag addict can have her fill of the MIX exclusive, Rafe New York, by Filipino-American accessories designer Rafe Totengco.

The popularity of American label Juicy Couture has baffled even Ricco Ocampo, Tina's husband. Filipinas have been lapping up the brand's tracksuits even before they hit the MIX racks. When it comes to looking right, no price seems too high for the fashionista. Some patrons reportedly spend up to 50 grand—in cash!—for an item or two in a single visit. (No wonder Ricco's grinning.)

MIX boutiques are located at Greenbelt 3 and Robinsons Galleria

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

TRACKSUIT by Juicy Couture (cashmere hoodie, P8,199; drawstring pants, P6,499), black tank by Max Studio (P3,099) and sneakers by Adidas (P3,295)

BLACK wraparound blouse (P9,099), lacy camisole (P3,999), pleated skirt (P11,299), all by Trina Turk; and shoes by Kors by Michael Kors (P11,199)

JACKET (P15,249), black cuffed pants (P10,849), fuchsia turtleneck top (P6,649), all by Trina Turk; patent leather bag by Rafe New York (P28,499) and shoes by Kate Spade (P9,899)

LITTLE black dress by Max Studio (P12,949) and shoes by Anne Klein (P9,399)

GREEN miniskirt by Paper Denim & Cloth (P6,699), beige tank by Max Studio (P3,649) beige hoodie by Max Studio (P5,299), shoes by Kors by Michael Kors (P9,899) and metallic bag by Rafe New York (P14,849)

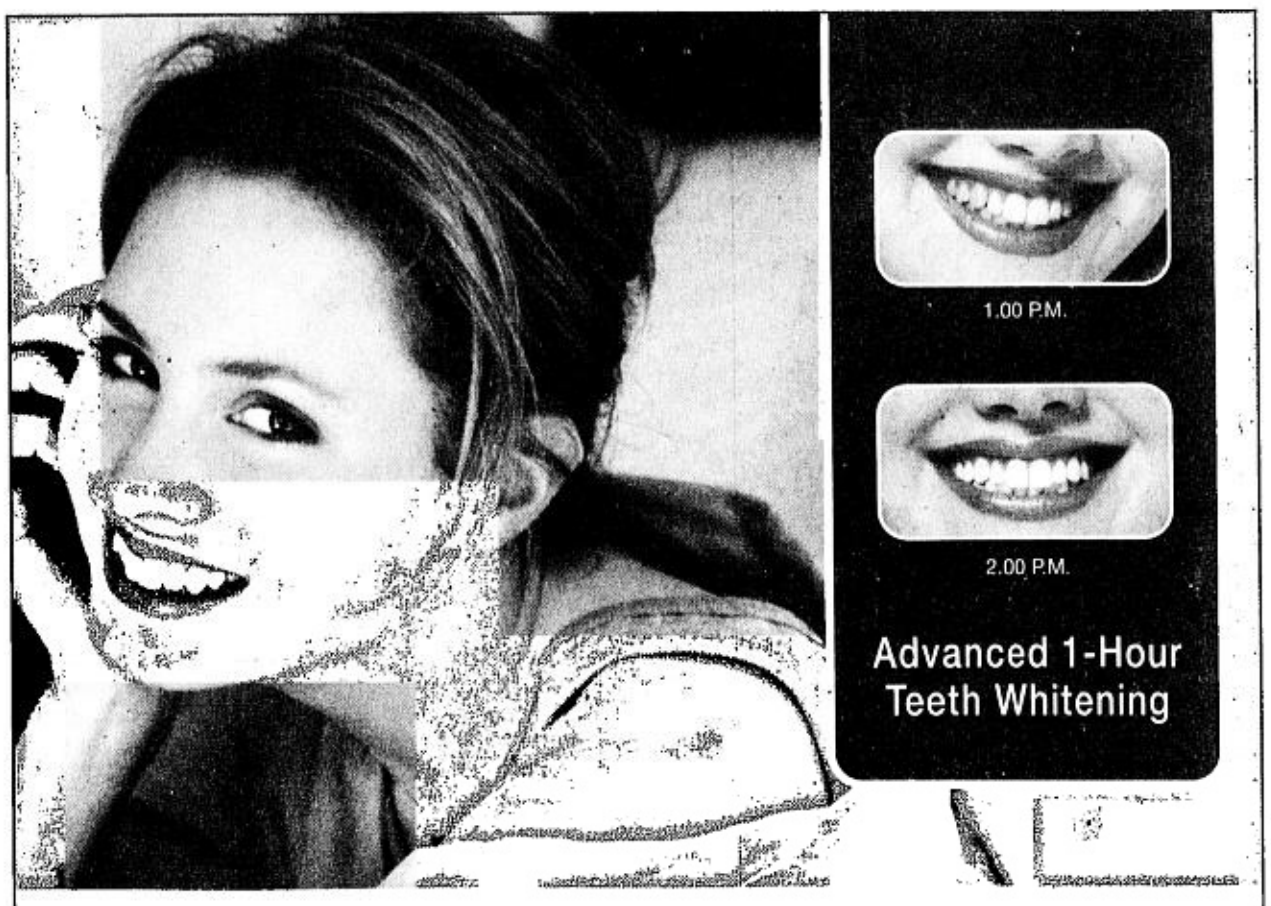
Pharmacology course at St Luke's Hospital

THE DEPARTMENT of Pharmacology of the St. Luke's College of Medicine will hold its first postgraduate course in Clinical Pharmacology, with the theme Interfacing Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, today, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the 11th floor of the Medical College building, at the back of the St. Luke's Medical Center.

The course will include lectures on the following topics: Overview of Clinical Pharmacology; Rational Drug Use; Fundamentals of Meta-analysis; Critical Appraisal of Literature; Introduction to Good Clinical Practice; and Fundamentals of Good Clinical Practice. There will be a workshop on Good Clinical Practice.

The speakers are dynamic medical professionals with proven competence: Drs. Benjamin Co, Roy Cuison, Oscar Naidas, Sandra Torres and Christian Joukhadar of the University of Vienna.

Call 7230301 local 3804 or 3814.



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More beauty discoveries

SAMSONITE
Wildflower beauty
case in burgundy

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

WHEN you travel, do your beauty products greatly outweigh your clothes? If you're anything like me, surely you don't feel secure without an entire beauty arsenal with you.

I recently found a chic-looking cosmetic case with the right roomy size and at a pocket-friendly price at The Podium.

Samsonite has come up with beauty kits that don't actually look like one. For overnight trips, they're big enough to accommodate clothes and slippers as well.

I was surprised at such a change of image for Samsonite, as I've always associated the brand with a no-nonsense business image.

In road-testing its beauty kit, I put in full-sized bathroom products, complete skincare lines, and sets of makeup.

What do you know, they all fit quite well, and the entire package also made quite a statement, fashion-wise.

The case cost me P2,290, but, hey, it's a lot sturdier and better-looking than other prestige luggage brands I know. In fact, I had a hard time choosing between the Spark model in beautiful rich red, and the Wildflower model in classic black. I only chose the latter for practical reasons.

Other eye-catching models include Streamline II (P3,390), Black Label in taupe and tan combo (P10,990) and Classic 1000 in hard shell (P14,890). Check out these kits and I'm sure you'd find one to suit your personality.

SAMSONITE Spark
beauty case in rich red

New makeup line

Awake is a Japanese brand belonging to the Kose Corp. group of companies, which is famous in Japan for its whitening products.

The brand has recently been made available in Rustan's Makati. My early favorites in the skincare line are the Deep Purity cleansing oil, which effortlessly removes all dirt and makeup, even waterproof mascara; Exfolizer, a toner that also exfoliates skin; Vital Express, which is Vitamin C powder that turns into liquid when applied to the skin, reversing damage imparting a smoother texture; Hydroforce gel mask, to be used once a week to hydrate skin that's been dehydrated from overwashing and medication; and Authority Age Release Serum, a moisturizer for both dry and oily skin.

However, I understand that the most popular Awake product is, naturally, the Exbright whitening line. This is suitable for those who want to whiten their faces fast without the hassle of peeling skin.

As this makes my skin look a bit ghostly in the morning, I don't use this particular product.

Awake's star makeup products include Stardom powder, which is made of 77-percent water. Thus, it feels cool when applied to the skin.

It's similar to Prescriptives Magic, but has more shades to offer. Those of you with light to medium complexions should use Venus Sea, while those with Medium to deep hues should try Sand Dune.

Stardom mascara, on the other hand, is the only mascara I've found that can curl my stubborn straight lashes and hold the curl until I wash it off. Using it thickens, lengthens and makes my lashes look like Latina curls.

Stardom lipsticks feel moist and creamy—perfect for chapped lips.

Some neutral shades that go with any outfit and most skin tones are Spirited Rose (akin to MAC Twig or Cosmo), Sparkling Burgundy (similar to Bobbi Brown Garnet Shimmer) and Wine Dynasty (like Clinique Black Honey).

But as with every Japanese brand, Awake's crown jewel is its makeup foundation, designed to make Asian skin look bright and flawless.

I highly recommend its Renovation foundation, which produces amazing results. And if you're crazy about whiter skin, the Exbright whitening foundation is just right for you.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

AWAKE Vital Express vitamin C powder

AWAKE Loose Powder Stardom

Kidnappers snatch Chinoy girl, shoot driver, nanny Story Below, Col. 3

Guess who didn't go to 'Unity' lunch?

By Juliet Javellana

GUESS who didn't come for dinner—or, in this case, lunch?

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday hosted what was supposed to be a "unity lunch" at Mala-

GUESS / A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Miriam says son committed suicide

By Jerry Esplanada

HER SON committed suicide on Thursday night, ex-Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago admitted yesterday.

Ms Santiago said that her son, Alexander Robert or AR, had felt bad about not being admitted to the University of the Philippines College of Law af-

MIRIAM / A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, November 22, 2003 ★★★ 86 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 347 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Camacho quits; peso falls

Kris says she'll back Ping if FPJ won't run

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

WHAT will her mother say? And will her father flip over in his grave?

Outspoken actress Kris Aquino is "definitely" going for the political opposition in the May 2004 presidential election, she told the INQUIRER on Thursday night.

She is just waiting for the opposition to choose its standard-bearer which now appears to be a toss-up between Sen. Panfilo Lacson and movie king Fernando Poe Jr., better known to his legions of fans as FPJ. The selection process is scheduled for anytime before Dec. 15, according to sources in the opposition camp.

If FPJ is not in the running, Aquino will endorse the candidacy of Lacson.

Aquino, the high-profile, headstrong daughter of former President Corazon Aquino and national hero, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., met with Lacson for more than three hours Thursday night at the Inagiku Japanese Restaurant at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati.

They arrived separately and

KRIS/ A5

DINNER date with political endorsement on the menu between controversial personalities Kris Aquino and Sen. Panfilo Lacson (extreme right) on Thursday night at the Makati Shangri-La. As they emerged from the hotel's Japanese resto, Kris was said to be "excited" about stumping for candidates on the other side of her mother's affections. EDWIN BACASMAS

Hailed as one of best finance secretaries

By Clarissa S. Batino, Gil Cabacungan, Doris Dumlao and Elena R. Torrijos

THE PESO tumbled to a record closing low of P55.585 to the dollar yesterday after "one of the country's best finance secretaries," Jose Isidro Camacho, announced his resignation effective at the end of the month, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family and citing frustrations in his job.

Camacho, 48, the most senior economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo, did not cite any particular reason for quitting his post. But sources blamed his resignation on policy differences with Malacañang over the handling of the issues against Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia.

He is viewed by the global financial markets as one of the more credible members of the administration.

A wave of resignations among Camacho's deputies is expected to follow soon.

The finance chief had recommended to Malacañang Garcia's dismissal for alleged mismanagement and corruption. But the President decided to keep the GSIS chief who is a scion of one of the more influential political clans in Cebu.

"We need competent, excellent people running the GSIS," said the finance chief.

Camacho also denied rumors that he asked Ms Macapagal to

CAMACHO/ A20

Biggest shabu factory in RP busted; 5 Sinos nabbed

By Luige del Puerto
Metro

IT WAS not just a laboratory with two huge freezers the size of garbage trucks, a 20-ft dryer and other imported equipment, it was a factory, police officials said of the manufacturing facility for methamphetamine hydrochloride, one of the most sophisticated in the country, that was raided at dawn yesterday.

Aided by intelligence information from three countries, an Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force swooped down at 5 a.m. yesterday on a warehouse in Antipolo City, seizing more than 1,000 kilograms of shabu worth at least P2.1 billion and arresting five Chinese men.

Police Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, who heads the task force, said the facility was capable of producing 500 kg of the illegal drug each week.

The raiding team was acting on a tip from the US Drug Enforcement Agency, the Australian Federal Police and the Taiwanese Criminal Investigation Bureau.

The seized shabu—466.56 kg of which were in crystal and the rest in liquid form—was the single biggest haul in the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who arrived at about 4 p.m. yesterday and was given a tour of the compound, said she was very pleased with the "very, very big bust."

"I hope the supply [of the illegal drug] would become more scarce

BIGGEST/ A8

PRAYING FOR 'MANILA'S INCONSISTENCIES'
Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Rosales receives the pastoral staff during his installation rites at the Manila Cathedral. (*Story on Page A2*) EDWIN BACASMAS

IT'S WAR!

Chinoy girl snatched; driver, nanny shot

By Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria
Metro

IN WHAT appeared to be a "declaration of war" against the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), kidnappers struck back early yesterday morning and abducted a 10-year-old Chinese-Filipino girl in Paco, Manila.

Victim Gelica Dy was on her way to the St. Peter the Apostle Parish and School when at least three heavily armed abductors—including a woman—blocked her vehicle and grabbed her on Quirino Avenue at around 6:45 a.m., according to Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Naktaf spokesperson.

The suspects shot Dy's driver Hilario Responso and nanny Maricel de Dios when they refused to yield the girl, he said. Both victims are in serious condition at the Philippine General Hospital.

The latest abduction came several hours after police intercepted a car near Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat late Thursday and found the body of its owner, an apparent kidnap victim, in the trunk. Two men were arrested, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero told reporters.

Also on Thursday, heavily

CHINOY/ A20

THE COURTSHIP CONTINUES. President Macapagal gives Sen. Noli de Castro the eye before the start of investiture rites for the archbishop of Manila. De Castro had admitted the Palace is after him to be the President's running mate. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Massive protest for Sy funeral Sunday

A BLACK cloud of anger and despair has descended on the Chinese-Filipino community as they prepare to bury Betti Chua Sy—and community leaders are planning to turn her funeral tomorrow into a mammoth street protest.

Sy, a fast-rising Coca-Cola executive, was found dead on Tuesday, her bullet-torn corpse wrapped in a white shroud and stuffed in a black trash bag.

The viciousness of her abduction and killing—the police suspect the 32-year-old bled to death before her captors telephoned her family to demand a P10-million ransom—has shocked the Chinese community.

In fliers distributed at her wake, Chinese-Filipino leaders urged citizens to "show our anger against the rampage of kidnapping that is terrorizing our lives."

The last time the tightly-knit Chinese-Filipino community took to the streets in anger was in 1993, when they buried a kidnapped schoolgirl who had been shot dead in a bungled police rescue attempt.

"We haven't seen it this bad for 10 years," said Teresita Ang See, of the Citizens Action

BIG PROTEST/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will be cloudy with rains. Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/22/03

Second FRONTPAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Sin: Politics is RP scourge

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: Newly installed Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales in a huddle with his predecessor, Jaime Cardinal Sin, during yesterday's solemn turnover ceremony at the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Blanche S. Rivera

ARCHBISHOP Jaime Cardinal Sin, the powerful spiritual leader of Filipino Catholics, formally stepped down Friday with a plea to local politicians to be more responsible.

"Among all areas of Filipino life, it is politics that needs most the saving presence of Christ," Sin said at a solemn ceremony where he turned over his pastoral staff—the symbol of his authority as archbishop of Manila—to his Vatican-nominated successor Gaudencio Rosales.

"Politics without Christ is the greatest scourge of our nation," said the 75-year-old Sin, his voice weak.

For nearly three decades, Sin wielded enormous influence in the lives of Filipinos, forcing the ouster of two corruption-tainted presidents—the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino as well other dignitaries joined more than 600 priests in witnessing the changing of the guard from Sin to Rosales, also a liberal who once campaigned strongly for environmental issues.

"The past 29 years have been difficult; (filled with) rallies and peaceful revolutions, they were also years of greatness," the ailing Sin said.

He asked the country to support Rosales, whom he said had "clarity of vision and piety of heart."

Rosales is the 31st archbishop of Manila.

In his message to his new flock, Rosales asked them to pray for his health, his vision and the purification of his values so he could do what was best for Manila.

He said his challenge would be to address the many inconsistencies of Manila, the co-existence of the poor and the rich, the learned and unlearned, the weak and powerful.

"Pray for me that I may find His way, unquestionably among the poor, the weak, and also among the rich, not for reasons of comparison, neither by way of competition, but in the love expressed for us in Jesus, as brothers, sisters and companions," Rosales said.

Rosales will not be walking in anyone's shadow.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal yesterday asked the faithful in Manila to get rid of all their preconceived notions about their new spiritual leader, saying Rosales had his own way of thinking and doing things.

Vidal, who gave the homily during the three-hour installation rites at the Manila Cathedral, said that while Rosales accepted his assignment to Manila "with reluctance," the new archbishop's commitment to his new ministry was "whole-hearted and total."

"The challenges in the capital city are infinitely more complex... Then there is the matter of a predecessor whose shoes are very difficult to fill. Cardinal Sin's legacy not only to his flock in Manila but to Filipinos in general is a tough act to follow," Vidal said.

Rosales, 71, formerly of the Lipa diocese, replaced Sin who was Manila archbishop for 29 years under five presidents.

Other dignitaries present at the rites were Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who was applauded by the crowd. *With an AFP report*

Church guidelines on sexual misconduct not yet final

By Bernadette A. Parco
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal has clarified that the reported set of guidelines on sexual misconduct among priests is not yet official as these have yet to be approved by the Vatican.

He said on Thursday that even portions of the guidelines should not have been released because Pope John Paul II was still studying the document in Rome.

"We cannot yet publish the protocol. We have to wait until Rome says something about it," the Cardinal reiterated yesterday.

"That's why they have to correct the reports. We cannot yet make any statements at all (about the protocol)," he added.

The INQUIRER reported on Thursday that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had released the set of guidelines on sexual misconduct among priests following the scandals that rocked the Catholic Church in the country.

According to the guidelines contained in an 18-page document, "Pastoral Guidelines on Sexual Abuses and Misconduct by the Clergy," a priest found to have fathered a child would be meted out sanctions but would not be automatically defrocked.

But if he fathered two children, the priest would be immediately asked to leave the Church.

Those priests found committing homosexual acts would be sent to a rehabilitation center run by the church. If the offense was repeated, they would be expelled at once, the guidelines said.

Noli is his own man–Recto

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

"NOLI is the master of his fate."

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday came to the defense of his fellow Wednesday Club member to belie the talk that Sen. Noli de Castro was "a talent who could be traded or put on the auction bloc."

Recto was reacting to rumors the Lopez family, De Castro's employers, had negotiated a Macapagal-De Castro ticket for 2004 with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Recto said De Castro was "one of the most independent-minded" persons he knew and would not even readily agree to co-author a bill even when asked.

Likewise, he said, De Castro was "very analytical in approaching a problem and in making career decisions."

"We must disabuse ourselves of the notion that he is another man's marionette," Recto said.

De Castro has been topping surveys for president and vice president and is reportedly being wooed by President Macapagal to be her running mate in 2004.

At the House, Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) said a new Lopez oligarchy was on the rise with television talents De Castro and Sen. Loren Legarda assuming the roles of political "surrogates" to regain for the family the luster it had enjoyed in the pre-martial law years.

Ocampo said this is what he sees on the political horizon since De Castro and Legarda, both broadcasters in the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN media network, continue to dominate the surveys.

Ocampo said that either De Castro or Legarda could fill the shoes once worn by Fernando Lopez, who was vice president until strongman Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972. Fernando was the brother of Eugenio Lopez Sr., the patriarch who set the clan on the road to business success.

"In the pre-martial law years, the Lopez family and its business empire was a power to reckon with until Marcos seized Meralco and their other assets," Ocampo said in an interview.

"Today they are big again but Meralco and Maynilad Water are saddled with financial woes," he said.

"The Lopez family used to have strong political clout in the person of Vice President Lopez," Ocampo said. "After him, the Lopezes had no family member that was politically prominent."

Ocampo described De Castro and Legarda as the "new creations of TV hype" who parlayed their popularity, with the support of the Lopezes, into successful political careers.

"In a way and in effect, the two are surrogates of the Lopezes," Ocampo said.

Barbers for VP?

BREAKING his silence over the Macapagal-Noli de Castro tandem, Lakas stalwart Sen. Robert Barbers disclosed yesterday that it was only a matter of time before he would announce his intention to run for vice president next year.

Speaking at the Balitaan sa Rembrandt news forum yesterday, Barbers said he was just waiting for the green light from the ruling party, which is reportedly rooting for him to become President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate in 2004.

Speaker Jose de Venecia is reportedly backing a GMA-Barbers ticket for 2004 polls.

"All it takes for my bid for the vice presidency to go 'full throttle' is the party's 'unanimous endorsement' of my candidacy," said Barbers who, until yesterday, had been non-categorical in his political plans next year.

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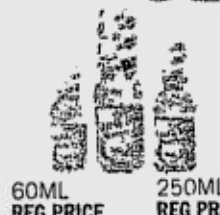

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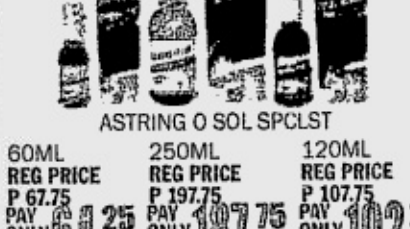

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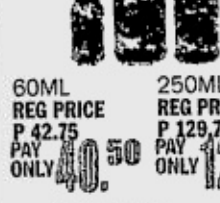

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Strunk lawyer hits US embassy legal attaché

By Percy D. Della
Correspondent

SACRAMENTO—The lawyer of Rod Lauren Strunk yesterday said it was "diplomatically and legally" wrong for the United States embassy in Manila to advise the Philippine government to re-file a new extradition request for his client with another federal court.

Jeff Kravitz, reacting to statements by Jeffrey Cole, US legal attaché in Manila said, "advising a foreign government to attempt to re-file the case before another judge tends to imply that decisions of US courts can be circumvented."

Kravitz made the comment to the INQUIRER as he surveyed the uproar resulting from US magistrate Gregory Hollows' order rejecting Manila's request to extradite the 63-year old Strunk to face charges he ordered the killing of his movie actress wife, Nida Blanca.

"The job of US diplomats is to uphold the law of the United States. In accordance with the law of the United States, a magistrate judge has found a lack of probable cause and thus denied the extradition. Such advice (to re-file) leads to disrespect for the judicial process of the United States," Kravitz said.

"Wasn't Mr. Cole the same attaché who assured the government of the Philippines that the first extradition case would go through?" Kravitz mockingly asked.

Kravitz, who teaches constitutional law at a Sacramento-based law school, said: "Any court that hears this case would have to have jurisdiction over Mr. Strunk and that cannot be achieved by simply looking for a court to file in."

He said the decision of Judge Hollows "has the legal effect of *res judicata* (an issue that cannot be litigated again), any judge that hears the case would have to respect the decision."

Kravitz said in a new extradition request, "only new and competent evidence could be used. New would have to mean just that—not previously known to the government of the Philippines. Competent would have to mean coming from sources other than the same group of people making contradictory statements," he stressed.

"The government of the Philippines should reopen the investigation into Nida Blanca's murder by re-examining the evidence, not by simply going out and getting 'new' scripted witness statements to try and frame Mr. Strunk," said Kravitz.

"Mr. Strunk urges the government to please investigate the murder."

Kravitz, who is engaged to a Filipina, said Manila's belated reaction to Strunk's court victory was "like closing the barn door after all the horses have left.

"The Philippine government just blew it."

In an earlier interview, Strunk told the INQUIRER that the claim by the Philippines that he escaped from Manila was "all lies."

"They freely allowed me to leave the country, but the day after I arrived in the US they filed charges against me."

"The only thing police in Manila had in implicating me was the written confession of this person, Philip Medel, who I had never met. He recanted it in open court five days later."

Strunk said he had no intention of hiding and claimed he had always been in Tracy, about 60 miles south of Sacramento.

"When the Philippine government requested US marshals to arrest me, I was at home on the porch," he said.

Kaye doesn't trust Wycoco

By Philip C. Tubeza

KAYE Torres, daughter of murdered actress Nida Blanca, is more than willing to cooperate with the Department of Justice but not with National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, her lawyer said yesterday.

Former Sandiganbayan Justice Harriet Demetriou said they no longer trusted the NBI director.

"We feel that we can no longer trust him on his promise to do his utmost best this time," Demetriou said, quoting the letter she sent to DOJ Secretary Simeon Datumanong on Wednesday.

"However, we are more than willing to cooperate with your department and with Mr. Jeffrey Cole, the legal attaché of the US Embassy in Manila for purposes of evidence reassessment and for other legal measures," she added.

Demetriou said she is just waiting for the DOJ officials to set the date and the place where Torres could meet them.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez earlier called on Torres to cooperate with the DOJ as it prepares to re-file the extradition petition against Rod Lauren Strunk, Blanca's husband and prime suspect in her gruesome killing in 2001.

THE PHILIPPINE DIABETES ASSOCIATION, INC.
An affiliate society of the: Philippine Medical Association (PMA) • Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)
A member of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF)
Annual Convention
"OPTIMIZING TREATMENT STRATEGIES"

MESSAGES

With genuine sentiments of fellowship, we greet on behalf of the Philippine Medical Association the officers and members of the Philippine Diabetes Association, Inc., on the occasion of its Annual Convention.

We at the PMA are glad to be with you on this important confab on one of the most insidious diseases, diabetes mellitus. You deserve commendation for having prepared an all encompassing scientific program focused on the, well-chosen theme, "Optimizing Treatment Strategies. Given the hard-edged topics on the various diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, not to mention a formidable panel of speakers with renowned expertise from here and abroad, this convention should hold much promise for participants' and delegates to this convention.' Your commitment to the opening of avenues to cater to intellectual and professional growth of your members deserves much applause.

Congratulations. *Mabuhay ang* Philippine Diabetes Association, Inc.

JOSE T. SANCHEZ, M.D.
President, Philippine Medical Association

In behalf of the Board of Regents of the Philippine College of Physicians, may I convey our profound congratulations for the impeccable organization of your Annual Convention with the theme "Optimizing Treatment Strategies" on November 25-26, 2003 at the Century Park Hotel Manila.

We join the Organizing Committee in welcoming all participants, delegates and guests of this meeting and express our hope for a scientifically rewarding affair.

As a team, lets work together to promote ethical, high quality and cost effective medical care so that we can provide our fellow Filipinos who entrust to us their lives.

Our continued best wishes for a successful meeting as well as in your future endeavors.

VICENTE JOSE Y. VELEZ, M.D. FPCP
President, Philippine College of Physicians

Warm greetings to all our colleagues and friends!

The frightening exponential increase in the number of people afflicted with diabetes mellitus here and abroad indeed calls for a unified effort to intensify the campaign to fight the disease. We certainly know that living with diabetes isn't easy especially in a world where sedentary lifestyle is so tempting. Unawareness, ignorance and lack of understanding about this disease will undoubtedly increase its burden further. The yearly activities of the association focused on Education, Advocacy, Networking & Research continue to guide us face the many challenges of this disease. Hand-in-hand, our efforts will make a difference in the lives of our diabetic patients and their families. Constant education and learning, indeed make real achievements possible. Cure may be far from reality but I am sure that , the different scientific breakthroughs will provide our diabetic patients new hope for a healthier and fruitful life.

This year, it is my honor to welcome everyone to the annual convention of the Philippine Diabetes Association. I am sure you will enjoy the different topics carefully selected and prepared by the organizing committee on the different strategies in optimizing diabetes treatment. Excellent speakers, both foreign and local, will share with us the knowledge and skills we need to help our patient improve their quality of life. Likewise, I would like to take this opportunity to invite our lay members as well as non-members who happens to care for their diabetic relatives to please join us in our annual lay forum. Surely, this gathering will not only be a venue for scientific interaction and learning but will be an appropriate time to meet new friends.

ROSA ALLYN G. SY, MD
President, PDA

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is with great pleasure that I extend this invitation for you to join us in the 2003 Annual Convention of the society on November 25-26, 2003.

There are numerous developments and tremendous advances that continue to emerge in the field of diabetes. This scientific assembly is undoubtedly an appropriate occasion to highlight the progress in the treatment strategies of diabetes.

The organizing committee had turned in time and effort to make this event intellectually stimulating, thorough and at the same time truly enjoyable. There is also an opportunity to unwind and recharge. Catch up with friends and colleagues during the fellowship night.

I would like to thank the members of the organizing committee and our sponsors for their generous support.

TOMMY S. TY WILLING, M.D.
Overall Chair, Organizing Committee

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Lay Annual Convention

November 22, 2003 (Saturday) • Century Park Hotel,

AM SESSION LECTURE

8:00 am	Registration	
8:30 am	Opening Remarks - All About the Facts on DM	By: Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy
9:15 am	Complication: Retinopathy (Interactive - Q & A)	By: Dr. Harvey S. Uy
10.00 am	BREAK	
10:45 am	Living with Diabetes	By: Fr. Benny Garcia
11:30 am	Psychosocial Aspect (Dealing with "Burn-Outs")	By: Dr. Rene Samaniego
12:15 pm	LUNCH / Newsflash on Various Issues - Ampalaya: Featuring Dr. Roberto C. Mirasol and MMC - Red "D" in cooperation with Life Scan	Diabetes Educator clinic staff

PM SESSION

2:00 4:00 pm	"What's Cooking?" (a la "Wok With Yan") Audience Participation 1. One dish meal 2. Dessert Wrap - up Election of Officers	Chef Courtesy of ABBOTT Dietitians

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website: www.diabetesphil.org

PROGRAMME

Scientific Convention

November 25 - 26, 2003 • Century Park Hotel, Manila

DAY 1: NOVEMBER 25,2003

7:00 Registration

Century Park Ballroom

8:20 - 8:40 - National Anthem/Invocation
- Welcome Remarks, Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD, President, PDA
- Cordial Message, Jose T. Sanchez, MD, President, PMA

8:40 - 9:25 - Plenary 1: The Challenges of Childhood Diabetes
Speaker: Prof. Martin Silink

9:25 - 9:40 - LAUNCHING OF "D"

9:40 - 10:00 - Opening of the Exhibits

Symposium I A: (Century Room) Clinical Therapeutics

10:00 - 10:30 - Intensive Glucose Control in the ICU Setting - Speaker: Roberto C. Mirasol, MD
10:30 - 11:00 - Insulin Analogues: The Long and Short of it - Speaker: Editha Arceo-Dalisay, MD
11:00 - 11:30 - ARBs and ACE-I: Beyond BP lowering Speaker: Ma. Teresa Plata-Que, MD
11:30 - 12:00 - Open Forum

Symposium 2B: (Kachina Room) Type I Diabetes and Children's Issues

10:00 - 10:30 - Update on Prevention Trials in Type I Diabetes - Speaker: Richard Elwynn Fernando, MD
10:30 - 11:00 - Diabetes Camps: Risks and Benefits Speaker: Susan B. Trinidad, RN
11:00 - 11:30 - Type 2 DM in Youth: The Role of Exercise Speaker: Joey Miranda, MD
11:30 - 12:00 - Open Forum

12: 00 - 1:45 - CONCURRENT LUNCH SYMPOSIA - AVENTIS PASTEUR, MERCK, PFIZER

1:45 - 2:00 - Visit the Exhibits

Symposium 2A: (Century Room) Pregnancy and Women's Issues

2:00 - 2:30 - Controversies in GDM Speaker: Josephine C. Raboca, MD
2:30 - 3:00 - Causes and Consequences of Low Birth Weight - Speaker: Lina Lantion-Ang, MD
3:00 - 3:30 - Obesity and Women's Health Speaker: Rima Tan, MD
3:30 - 4:00 - Open Forum
4:00 - 5:00 - Business Meeting (Kachina Room)
5:00 - 6:00 - BAYER DIABETES DEBATE (Park Room)
Chair: Patricia B. Gatbonton, MD / Co-Chair: Rey Rosales
6:15-7:30 - CONCURRENT DINNER SYMPOSIA - AVENTIS, SERVIER
7:30 Onwards - Fellowship Night

Symposium 2B: (Kachina Room) Complications I

2:00 - 2:30 - Stroke Prevention in the Diabetic Population - Abdias V. Aquino, MD
2:30 - 3:00 Fatty Liver and Type 2 Diabetes Speaker: Diana Payawal, MD
3:00 - 3:30 - Insulin Resistance, Endothelial Dysfunction And the Microcirculation Speaker: Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, MD
3:30 - 4:00 - Open Forum

DAY 2: NOVEMBER 26,2003

7:00 - 8:15 Breakfast Satellite Symposia, ELI LILLY, BOIE-TAKEDA

8:30 - 9:15 (Century Park Ballroom) Plenary 2: Requiem for the Beta Cell Speaker: Augusto D. Litonjua, MD

9:15 - 9:30 Awarding of Certificates of Appreciation and PDA Chapter of the Year

Symposium 3A: (Century Room) Endocrine Dysfunction and Diabetes

9:30 - 10:00 - Obesity and Diabetes Risk: Emerging Paradigm - Speaker: Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD
10:00 - 10:30 - Thyroid Dysfunction and Diabetes: Coincidence? - Speaker: Laura Trajano-Acampado, MD
10:30 - 11:00 - Osteoporosis in the Diabetic: Is it a Different Disease? - Speaker: Leilani Mercado-Asis, MD
11:00 - 11:30 - Open Forum

Symposium 3B: (Kachina Room) - Foot Workshop Chair: Teresa Plata-Que, MD

9:30 -11:30 1. The Black Toe: Is it Always Ischemia?
2. A New Dressing for Highly Exudating Wounds

Symposium 3C: (Park Room) - PDA Research Grant Chair: Ruby T. Go, MD

9:30 - 11:30

11:30 -1:15 - CONCURRENT LUNCH SYMPOSIA BAYER/GSK, THERAPHARMA

1:30 - 2:15 - Plenary 3: (Century Park Ballroom) - Angioplasty and Revascularization Procedures in the Diabetic Speaker: Dr. Dy Bun Yok, MD

Symposium 4A: (Century Room) Complications 2

2:15 - 2:45 - Protein Kinase C in the Pathogenesis of Diabetic Complications - Speaker: Ruby T. Go, MD
2:45 - 3:15 - Novel Therapy for Dyslipidemia Speaker: Tommy S. Ty Willing, MD
3:15 - 3:45 - DM Nephropathy: New Insights Speaker: Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
3:45 - 4:00 - Open Forum

Symposium 4B: (Kachina Room) Clinical Nutrition

2:15 - 2:45 - Micronutrients in Diabetes Prevention and Treatment - Speaker: Susan Yu-Gan, MD
2:45 - 3:15 - The Role of Protein in Diabetes Nutrition Speaker: Gabriel V. Jasul, MD
3:15 - 3:45 - Changing Behavior in Nutrition: Improving Patient Compliance Speaker: Ms. Sanirose Orbeta, MSRD FADA
3:45 - 4:00 - Open Forum

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Kris goes for the opposition

From page A1

stayed until the restaurant closed after 10:30 p.m.

Lacson arrived a few minutes before 7 p.m. Aquino, wearing a brown shirt and denim pants, arrived 30 minutes later.

Asked why Aquino would choose to be with the opposition and not with the administration ticket led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom her mother had helped install into power two years ago, an INQUIRER source said: *"Type lang niya."*

"She has nothing against GMA. She just wants Ping or FPJ. You know Kris, she's the 'I-am-me' type," the source added.

Sigfrid Fortun, lawyer to both Lacson and Aquino, and Lacson's publicist Ermin Garcia Jr. joined Aquino and Lacson.

"They just talked about the possibility of her endorsing either Senator Lacson or FPJ," said Fortun, who admitted to having "organized" the meeting as he's close to the two parties.

"It was a dinner for her to choose (whom to endorse)," Fortun said.

But what was clear, he said, was that Aquino would campaign for the opposition.

Fortun also said Aquino "likes" Lacson as a candidate but is also close to Poe. He said the actress and television show host would endorse whomever between the two would be chosen as the presidential candidate of a united opposition.

FPJ-Lacson agreement

Fortun disclosed that there was an agreement between Lacson and FPJ to abide by the result of the selection process and support the party's choice, and not bolt the opposition.

Aquino and Lacson were still in animated conversation when they emerged together from the VIP room of the Japanese restaurant, where they dined on assorted sashimi, tempura, oysters and gindara.

Aquino, 32, laughed when the INQUIRER teased her about the possibility of being Lacson's running mate. "I'm too young," she said.

Asked if she would support Lacson, she said: "I can't say that. Ask me in a month."

Aquino had earlier expressed her intention to run for the Senate in 2007 when she becomes eligible. The actress falls short of the age requirement for the senatorial elections in 2004.

Lacson declined to comment about the meeting.

But sources in the Lacson camp said Aquino was "excited" about the prospect of actively campaigning for the opposition candidate.

Veteran campaigner

When she was five or six years old, Aquino campaigned for her father, who was in jail, for a congressional seat during the Marcos martial law regime. She also went on the campaign trail for her mother and her mother's candidates in the "snap" election called by Marcos in 1985.

Former President Aquino had been vocal about her support for the Macapagal administration, and had always come forward to defend the legitimacy of President Macapagal's tenure.

During the Oakwood mutiny last July, she joined pro-Macapagal civil society groups at the Edsa Shrine to hear Mass and articulate her defense of the legitimate government.

"She looks forward to getting the campaign going, she'd like to help by endorsing (its candidate). She's ready to join the campaign sorties," one source said.

Cory's blessings?

Fortun and the source could not say if Aquino's choice would also be the choice of her mother, the former President who is recognized around the world as an icon of democracy.

"She probably got her (mother's) blessings, but I don't think that will necessarily reflect the family's stand," the source said.

But the source noted that the former President had recently stated that she would not endorse any candidate in 2004.

EDWIN BACASMAS

KRIS and Ping after dining on oysters, tempura and gindara. In the middle is lawyer Sigfrid Fortun, who arranged the meeting.

Drilon to join LP on Nov. 28, says party head

By Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño

LESS than two months after the defection of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, the administration coalition in the Senate is losing another pillar.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, who has not been affiliated with any party since leaving the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in 2001, is joining the Liberal Party on Nov. 28, according to LP president Rep. Florencio Abad.

"Senate President Drilon feels he is comfortable with the principles of and the people within the Liberal Party," Abad said in a phone interview.

Drilon, who ran for senator in 2001 under the administration's People Power Coalition, is considered a principal ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was not known why he would prefer to join the LP instead of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats chaired by Ms Macapagal.

LP quiet on support

And while the LP is counted as part of the PPC, it has been quiet on who it will support in the 2004 presidential election, which Ms Macapagal has said she would be contesting.

The LP earlier named the President as its honorary chairperson.

The Macapagal Cabinet has two LP members, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas and Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

LP divided

The talk in political circles is that the LP is divided on whom to support in 2004, with one faction said to be rooting for former Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Drilon himself did not want to comment on the report that he was joining the LP.

Abad said that the negotiations for Drilon to join the LP fold took three months.

"We've been talking for a while and he has been without a party for some time," Abad said.

"Senator Drilon saw that the LP is one party that has a good future," said Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, the LP vice president for the Visayas.

"He agrees with most of the issues being espoused by the party," he said.

For vice president?

Abad said the party has not sat down to discuss its stance in 2004.

Asked if the LP might field Drilon as its vice presidential bet, Abad said: "He is qualified for that position but the decision to run will be his to make."

Nachura said that Drilon had earlier told LP officials that he was not interested in running for vice president.

He said the LP would likely field two senatorial candidates, Roxas and Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Drilon's decision to join the LP and not the Lakas-CMD could be considered a setback for the administration coalition.

Guingona resigned as Lakas president on Oct. 4, two days before the President announced that she would stand for election in 2004.

Legarda, who is known to be seeking the vice presidency, announced her resignation from Lakas on Oct. 3.

Drilon is an independent but he ran for senator under the PPC in the 2001 senatorial elections. He bolted the LDP at the height of the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

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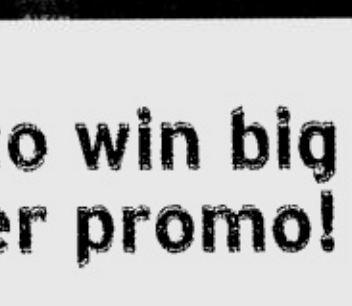

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Workers protest sale of mental hospital

By Volt Contreras and Luige del Puerto

WORKERS at the National Center for Mental Health yesterday picketed the main office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Quezon City to protest the impending sale of the Welfareville Compound in Mandaluyong City and threatened to go to court if the government proceeds with the sale of the 107-hectare property.

This developed as Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos, Jr. yesterday asked DSWD officials to stop the bidding of the land where the 75-year-old National Center for Mental Health stands.

Abalos told bidders and DSWD officials that the city opposes the plan to sell the property and that it is interested to buy the property which it plans to convert into a housing project.

"I came to stop the bidding. I also want to let the bidders know that the city is interested in buying the property," he said.

Some 120 NCMH employees and leaders from the Alliance of Health Workers went to the DSWD main office in Quezon City to seek an audience with DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, head of the Trustee Committee formed for the Welfareville Development Project. But Soliman was not around.

Despite mounting clamor to stop the sale, the DSWD yesterday proceeded to hold a prebidding conference for the project.

Ma. Lourdes Sare, NCMH human resources officer and one of the 15 core leaders of the protest group, said they will only agree to a dialogue on the condition that it be held right at the NCMH.

Ping not yet off the hook

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson may have won a legal battle when a Quezon City court dismissed the Kuratong Baleleng rub-out case against him but state prosecutors are waiting to pounce in another murder case involving the aspiring presidential candidate.

State Prosecutor Misael Ladaga said the Department of Justice is waiting for the Supreme Court to decide whether to allow the DOJ to pursue its preliminary investigation into the case against Lacson and 13 others for the kidnapping of seven Chinese nationals and the slaying of two of them in 1998 and 1999.

The high court is being asked to decide on a government petition to lift a restraining order that Lacson and his co-accused had obtained from a lower court stopping the DOJ from continuing with its investigation.

The case arose from the allegations of controversial former police agent Mary Ong who revealed in 2001 that Lacson and his co-accused were responsible for the kidnapping of Zeng Jia Xuan, Hong Zhen Qiuao, Zeng Kang Pang, James Wong, Wong Kam Chong, Chong Hiu Ming and Wong Kam Chong.

Lacson and his men at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force allegedly collected P10 million in ransom for the victims' release.

However, Chong Hiu Ming and Wong Kam Chong were allegedly killed by the suspects even after their relatives paid the ransom.

Ong and three relatives of the victims filed complaints against Lacson and his men with the National Bureau of Investigation.

Two of the victims' relatives reportedly flew in from Hong Kong to file the complaints and would return once progress was made on the case.

Among the others charged were Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Senior Supts. Michael Ray Aquino, Teofilo Andrada, Francisco Villaroman, and the late John Campos. *Philip C. Tubeza*

GSIS chief sues accusers for libel

THE HEAD of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has filed a libel case against the four authors of an open letter accusing him of incompetence and corruption.

The open letter appeared in Wednesday's issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Winston F. Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, filed the case in Pasay City against Roberto Billante, president of the Kalayaan Foundation Inc.; Glicerio Gervero, chair of Bagong Katipunan; Francisco Reyes, vice chair of the Christian Muslim Democratic Movement; and lawyer Rizal Balbin of the Campaign for Public Accountability.

In his complaint, Garcia said the letter contained allegations that were "false and defamatory, using malevolent and degrading language and made with malice and bad faith."

Garcia said the accusations raised in the letter were the same issues contained in the complaint filed by Brillante with the Office of the Ombudsman on Oct. 9, 2003.

He said the four accused acted "in concert and in conspiracy with one another to malign his person and character" without waiting for the outcome of the investigation by the Ombudsman.

According to Garcia, most of the issues in the letter, including the delay in loan processing, have already been "adequately and properly addressed through dialogues and information campaign with government agency heads, members and union representatives."

"The fact that the GSIS has already returned the loans and claims processing to full operation since Aug. 15, 2003 has made the accusation no longer true and therefore malicious," Garcia said.

Gringo, professor of ethics?

GREGORIO "Gringo" Honasan as a professor of ethics?

This would seem to be a new career path for the senator and perennial coup plotter as he concedes his political plans to be in limbo with coup d'etat charges hanging over his head.

Honasan said he was excited at embarking on a "fifth career" as a university professor teaching ethics and politics "maybe in the University of the Philippines or some obscure university in Bicol."

The Sorsogon-born Honasan listed the different careers he has gone through in his 51 years: "a soldier, a rebel, a peace advocate and now a senator."

Speaking at an Ambassador Hotel forum, Honasan said he wanted to solve his "legal problems" first before thinking about what to do about the 2004 elections just six months away.

He has been charged with coup d'etat over his alleged involvement in the July 27 mutiny of rebellious junior military officers. *Christine Avendaño*

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Congress runs out of time for 2004 budget; old spending law to apply in January

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S FINAL: the bureaucracy will start next year with old national budget.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said this was a certainty as he announced yesterday that Congress won't have time to pass the P864.8-billion National Appropriations Act before it adjourns for the year.

That means that the 2003 budget of P811.5 billion will apply starting January next year. Drilon, however, said Congress will pass the new budget before it adjourns in February.

Drilon said he had informed President Macapagal-Arroyo that time had run out for Congress to approve the proposed 2004 budget before it adjourns on Dec.20.

He said the Senate had no more time to deliberate on the 2004 budget because the printed copy would only get to the chamber by the second week of December.

But Drilon said the Senate would pass the P5.3-billion supplemental budget for 2004 that the House is set to pass by next week.

The supplemental budget is expected to fund the implementation of the Absentee Voting Law, salary increases of soldiers and the 2004 polls' expenditures.

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Biggest shabu factory ...

From page A1

and those who perpetuate this crime would be afraid," she told reporters.

Ms Macapagal, who was informed of the existence of the drug manufacturing facility three weeks ago, said the bust was the result of three months of intelligence work.

The President has made fighting illegal drugs a top priority in her anti-crime campaign and set aside a P1-billion war chest for it.

Caught 'cooking'

The five Chinese were caught in the act of "cooking" the illegal substance, police said.

The shabu factory, located at No. 8 Gertrudes St., Barangay Mambugan, was composed of three buildings, one of which served as the suspects' quarters. The compound was surrounded by five-meter-high concrete walls.

What made it sophisticated was that its mixers were mechanized, not unlike the ones that large bakeshops use, said Aglipay.

In the drug laboratories that had been raided before, workers mixed the chemicals manually.

And unlike the less sophisticated facilities, no smell emanated from the factory as everything was filtered.

Huge freezers

The factory also had two freezers similar to the ones used by ice cream companies. The freezers were used to crystallize liquid shabu.

"It's huge. I have never seen one this big," a US-DEA official told the INQUIRER after he toured the warehouse.

Also confiscated were more than 30 drums of chemicals, including acetone, hydrochloric acid and tetrahydrofuran, used in producing the methamphetamine hydrochloride, also called speed and known locally as shabu. They were estimated to be worth P15 million.

The laboratory equipment was worth an estimated P10 million.

Anselmo Avenido, the head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, said the seized factory was bigger than another discovered in July in Cavite province, which authorities then described as the country's largest.

He said the drug syndicate, under surveillance for about two months, used a ceramics and house furniture trading business as cover for their activities. Hundreds of boxes containing ceramic products were found inside the two large buildings.

Surveillance

The surveillance followed a tip from an informant about the suspicious presence of several Chinese men in the compound, Avenido said.

The Chinese, including a teenage boy and a man injured while trying to escape when police stormed the compound, were believed to be working as chemists in the factory.

Aglipay identified those arrested as Yan Huai Lian, Chin Tu-Chen, Chuang Wen Ming, Ho Kuo Hsiun and Eusebio Arellano, the caretaker of the compound. They face the death penalty if convicted.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the five must have given the authorities false names as not one came up in a computer search.

5 from Fujian

Domingo said the five came from China's Fujian province. The majority of Chinese arrested for manufacturing the illegal drugs in the country have been found to come from Fujian.

Arellano claimed to have been born in the Philippines but was unable to produce the papers to prove it, Domingo said.

Taiwanese officials showed up yesterday to verify the identities of those arrested.

Lt. Col. Gringo Chiang of the Taiwanese CIB, the equivalent of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, said the equipment used in the shabu laboratory were brought into the country on Oct. 30.

The information was immediately given to Philippine authorities who then monitored the trail of the equipment, Chiang said.

On Nov. 3, the equipment were placed inside a warehouse located on United Nations Avenue in Manila.

Five days later, they were brought to the Antipolo City warehouse.

"It was the Taiwanese who set up this laboratory," Chiang said.

"But the cook slipped away. I didn't see him," he added.

Perfect location

Police officials described the location for the drug laboratory as perfect. The place was actually one of four warehouses on the street that bear the number "8."

Records from the Antipolo assessors' office showed that the land on which the warehouse stood was registered under the name of So Chuan Co, but the buildings were under the name of Lai Chun Hui Valdez.

A police officer familiar with the operation said the suspects rented the warehouse last April.

No vacancies

He said it was probably meant to confuse the police about the laboratory's exact location.

Residents in the area said they thought that the factory produced slippers. But they said they always wondered why the factory never posted vacancies.

Arca Almonte, the security guard of a factory opposite the warehouse, confirmed that the place was manned by five Chinese.

He said a Toyota Tamaraw FX and another vehicle came at least twice a week.

"An old Chinese came out of the warehouse every now and then to buy food from the market. He carried with a him a blue pail," Almonte said.

At about 10 a.m. yesterday as reporters gathered outside the factory, a six-wheeler truck arrived. The driver said he was delivering plywood and had found the place through a sketch that was supplied.

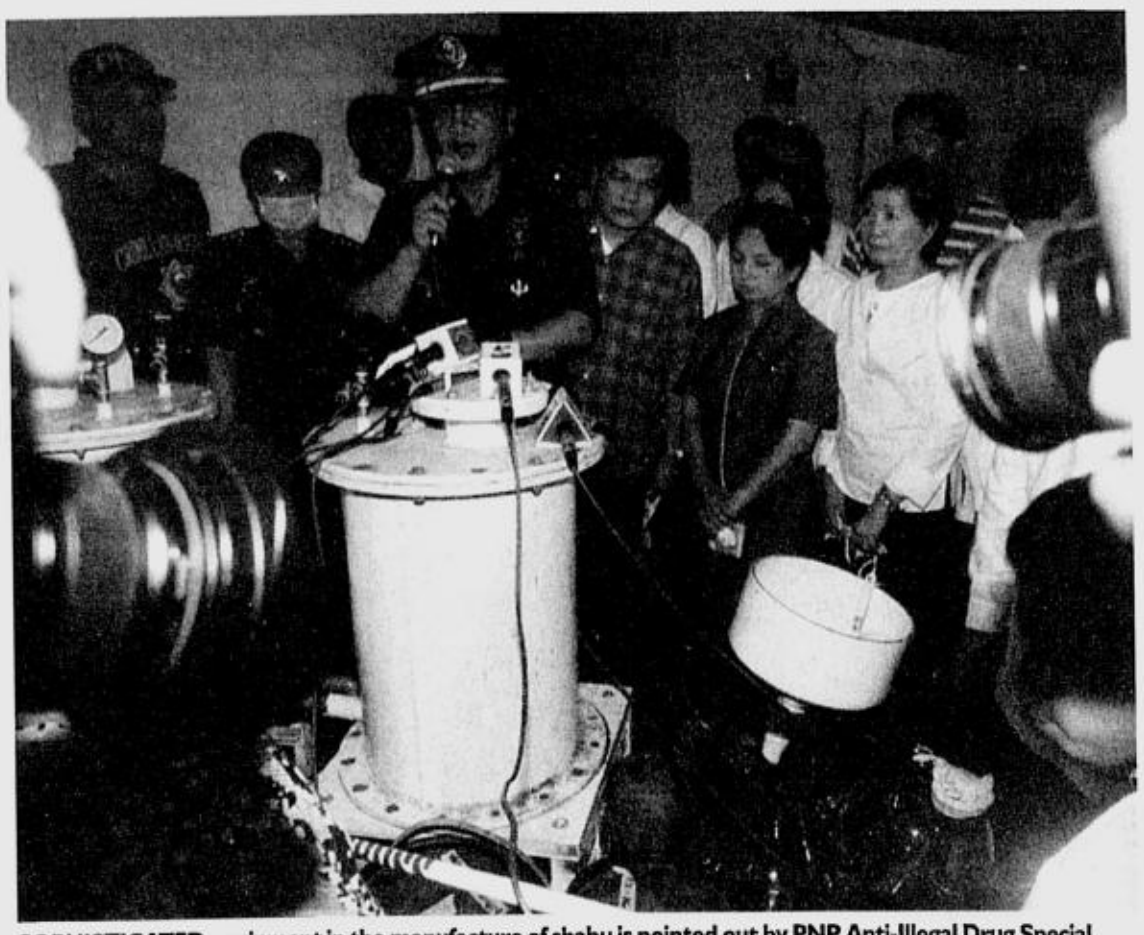
Police officials said the truck yielded nothing but processed wood.

Print, TV and radio reporters were not allowed inside the warehouse until about noon.

Catered food

The raiding team apparently came prepared.

Three tents were set up for the media and caterers were even hired to provide food.



SOPHISTICATED equipment in the manufacture of shabu is pointed out by PNP Anti-Illegal Drug Special Operations Task Force Deputy Director Edgardo Aglipay at the factory in Antipolo City. President Macapagal is flanked by Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo. BOY CABRIDO

The President arrived shortly before 4 p.m. with Interior Secretary Jose Lina. She made a brief statement but declined to take questions.

But she went around and talked for about five minutes with residents who had gathered in front of the warehouse.

The residents chanted her name even as the President turned to leave.

RP success

Lina said the bust proved that the Philippines was one of the most active campaigners against the illegal substance in Asia.

He said the big haul does not mean the Philippines is now Asia's shabu capital.

"[We're No. 1] in terms of accomplishment. We are the most hardworking," he said.

"I have seen all the drug laboratories, and this is the most advanced and most sophisticated so far. With that we have a reason to rejoice. This is a big success for the country," he said.

Good cooperation

DEA official Mark Connel described the cooperation between the DEA and the Philippines' anti-illegal drugs task force as "very good" and crucial in winning the fight against the international drug menace.

Domingo said this "enemy is very powerful in terms of resources. This is where international cooperation is needed."

"The US and Australia are closely watching our efforts to stop the illegal drugs trade here," she said.

Miriam says son committed suicide

From page A1

ter he failed one subject—Constitutional Law.

AR also reportedly had expressed his displeasure over his father's gambling activities, particularly cockfighting, and his mother's political career.

Ms Santiago turned up at her son's wake at the Christ the King chapel in Greenmeadows, Quezon City, late yesterday afternoon.

At first, she lingered outside the chapel, refusing to step inside where her son's body lay.

Thursday night when the INQUIRER called up Ms Santiago's husband, Narciso Santiago Jr., to ask what happened to AR, "Jun" Santiago, who sounded dazed, had this to say:

"Wala naman 'yun... aksidente lang ang nangyari. (It was nothing... it was an accident.)"

Then the cell phone line went dead.

The INQUIRER had called up Santiago at 10:18 p.m. to ask about AR, who early sketchy reports said had been rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City with a gunshot wound in the head.

AR, the younger of the Santiagos' two boys, had turned 22 on Oct. 2. He was declared dead on arrival at the EAMC shortly before 8 p.m.

Early yesterday, the Santiagos clammed up, turning down this reporter's request for a brief interview on the supposed accident.

"Wag n(a) daw po muna (Not now)," said one of Ms Santiago's secretaries at her Quezon City law firm.

She indicated the Santiagos did not want to talk about the tragedy which took place at their new home at the posh La Vista subdivision in Quezon City.

Kind, reserved

Ms Santiago's staff described AR as "very kind" and "reserved."

He was a law freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he had taken up political science.

His mother called him "Hunk" while the young Santiago called her "Hot Babe."

Arrangements were being made for AR's funeral tomorrow at a still undisclosed Metro Manila memorial park, according to Ms Santiago's staff.

At AR's wake, people close to the family refrained from talking about the "accident."

Barong Tagalog

But a male househelp of the Santiagos was overheard by the INQUIRER telling someone AR was "wearing a *barong* Tagalog, soaked in blood, when he was found in his room."

The househelp recalled that "shortly before dinner, AR asked one of the maids to clean his room." The maid was reportedly "surprised to see him wearing a *barong* Tagalog."

At the East Avenue Medical Center, emergency room personnel said AR was brought in at around 7:50 p.m. by his "brother and father."

The young Santiago was listed as patient no. 209 in the ER registry.

'Mr. X.'

Reports said AR was initially registered as "Mr. X" upon the request of his father, but nursing attendant Eduardo Lopez denied this.

"There's no Mr. X in the ER registry. We don't allow that here," Lopez said.

In the same hospital record book, AR's case was classified as a GSW or gunshot wound. But it failed to say that he was declared dead on arrival.

DOA

A check with AR's attending physician, John Akia, confirmed that he was DOA.

According to Akia, "the bullet apparently entered the occipital area (back of the head) near the left ear of the patient and exited his right temple area."

Akia made no further comment, indicating that it was up to the police to determine if AR's death was an accident or a suicide.

Foul play ruled out

But Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro, Central Police District director, ruled out foul play in the young Santiago's death.

"His wound was self-inflicted," Castro, who claimed to be a family friend of the Santiagos', told the INQUIRER.

The Santiagos, except for the victim, were reportedly having dinner when the incident happened. That the victim did not join his family at mealtime was not unusual since he usually locked himself up in his room, Castro said.

"Subsob 'tong batang 'to sa pag-aaral talaga (The boy was really into his studies)," said Castro, adding that the victim often visited his father at his office but preferred to sit in a corner reading a book.

Castro said most of the victim's classmates police talked to as part of their investigation described the young Santiago as a "very simple, quiet guy."

Loud sound

The Santiagos' househelp reportedly heard a loud sound, which turned out to be the gunshot coming from the victim's room.

But the help did not pay any attention to it. None of the other family members heard the shot "maybe because they were busy exchanging stories while having dinner," Castro said.

"His father could not believe his son would do such a thing. His family has no idea why he would kill himself," he said, describing the victim as "spoiled" since he was his parents' "favorite."

His parents easily gave in to his desires, that's how much they loved him. *Ni hindi nga yan mapadapuan sa lamok eh* (They wouldn't let a mosquito land on him)," Castro said.

Devastated

What devastated the father even more was that the gun belonged to him, Castro said.

He said there was nothing unusual about the son getting his father's gun, describing this as a typical "guy thing."

"Alam niya kung saan nakatago ang baril. Lalaki naman yun, minsan nga di ba tuturuan mo pa sila kung paano magpaputok ng baril (He knew where the gun was kept. He was a guy, you know how guys are taught how to fire guns)," Castro said.

Initially, there were conflicting reports about the victim's gunshot wound. Doctors at the East Avenue Medical Center said it was in the nape and exited through his pate, while Castro said it was in the temple.

Supt. Raul Medina, head of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU), which initially probed the shooting, declined to comment.

At the CPD-CIU, the spot report made by investigators was a mere one-paragraph statement, which did not even include the victim's age and address.

The report only noted that the CPD-CIU received a call at about 10:30 p.m. on Thursday from a security guard at the EAMC about the death of a male person.

Based on the information gathered by the investigators, Santiago was rushed to the EAMC at about 7:50 p.m. on Thursday due to a head injury. *With Tina Santos*

Guess who didn't go to 'Unity' lunch?

From page A1

Malacañang's Ceremonial Hall. It was meant to mark what she said was a "big occasion": the "peaceful and constitutional resolution" of the crisis spawned by the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

But the so-called "Brat Pack" of the House, the young congressmen who initiated the impeachment complaint, did not attend the luncheon.

"They're not here, but it doesn't mean they were not invited," said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

Opposition Senators Panfilo Lacson, Edgardo Angara and Gregorio Honasan were not around either.

"They probably do not understand the meaning of reconciliation. They should rise above partisan and personal interests for the [sake of the] country," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay when asked by reporters about the absence of the three senators.

Disunity in the Palace

And even as the President was pushing her reconciliation program, her official family was feuding.

Marita "Mai" Jimenez, presidential adviser on special and Official Development Assistance projects, had a tiff with Press Secretary Milton Alingod over the media coverage of the event.

Jimenez reportedly told Alingod that the reporters, who were already inside the Ceremonial Hall on the Palace's second floor, should go downstairs and await her signal for them to enter the hall.

Jimenez's work does not include coordinating media coverage.

Reporters were then shooed downstairs.

When Ms Macapagal noticed the absence of the reporters, she asked the soft-spoken Alingod what had happened. Alingod told her about Jimenez's instructions.

Jimenez then reportedly confronted Alingod, asking him why he had to tell the President.

By the time the reporters were finally allowed to enter the Ceremonial Hall, Ms Macapagal had already started her speech.

What's on the agenda?

The "unity lunch" was attended by leaders of Congress, the judiciary and representatives from the Church.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., who had severed ties with Ms Macapagal's Cabinet and party, sat quietly beside the President. He later told reporters he was invited on short notice and did not know the agenda of the meeting.

Present during the meeting were Davide and Supreme Court Associate Justices Dante Tinga, Leonardo Quisumbing, Adolfo Azcuna and retired Justice Josue Bellosillo.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. were around.

Mostly administration

Speaker Jose de Venecia came with his wife, Gina, and 45 congressmen, mostly from the administration party.

Among those who also attended were Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales, Prospero Pichay, Florencio Abad, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Marcelino Libanan, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Rolando Andaya, Edmund Reyes, Teodoro Locsin Jr., Monico Puentevella, Etta Rosales, Rimpy Bondoc, Jose Solis and Agapito Aquino.

Six congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint against Davide were present. Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, who signed but later withdrew his signature, was seen introducing himself to Davide at the Palace lobby after the luncheon.

Also present were Archbishop Fernando Capalla, who was designated peace negotiator to the Marcos, Estrada and Cojuangco camps, Jesuit priest Fr. Romeo Intengan, Iglesia Ni Cristo spokesperson Bienvenido Santiago and liaison officer Lowell Menorca.

Reaffirmation of faith

In her speech, Ms Macapagal said the luncheon was held not only to celebrate "the triumph of national unity and solidarity" following a "threatened crisis," but was also a reaffirmation of their collective faith in the Filipino and in the future of the Republic.

"As we break bread today, I trust that we shall all continue to rise above our partisan, sectoral and personal interests and pledge to serve what is common to us all, the nation and our people," she said.

"We shall have reconciliation with justice, with democracy and with prosperity."

Davide, in an interview with reporters later, said he had no doubts about the sincerity of Ms Macapagal in seeking unity and reconciliation.

"I hope that something more positive would come out of this initiative of the President," he said.

He said he did not mind the absence of the impeachment leaders during the luncheon.

"Whether they were present or not, the call has been made by the President," Davide said.

Closure

Guingona said any reconciliation move "must be based on something that would be good for the people, for the poor specially."

Drilon, on the other hand, lauded Ms Macapagal's effort to put closure to the impeachment case, which had divided the nation.

Need action

But Pimentel was more cautious. "Maybe in words, but we need action," he said when asked if the thought the President's reconciliation effort was sincere.

Abad said people should not expect "anything profound" from yesterday's meeting, considering that it was the first after the impeachment crisis. But it was a good start, he said.

Soliman said the fact that some congressmen who had signed the impeachment complaint attended the meeting showed that "we are all moving on" after the impeachment.

"The President thought of inviting everyone who could help bridge the different divides that rocked the country in the last three weeks and start moving on," Soliman said.

Not quite over

Yet things are not quite over as far as the impeachment issue is concerned.

Libanan, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition who chairs the House justice committee, said the House still had to vote on the fate of the first impeachment complaint filed by deposed President Joseph Estrada against Davide and six other Supreme Court justices in connection with their recognition of Ms Macapagal as Estrada's successor.

Libanan expressed the hope that the entire House would sustain the vote—48 against six—of his committee which had found the Estrada complaint to be insufficient in substance.

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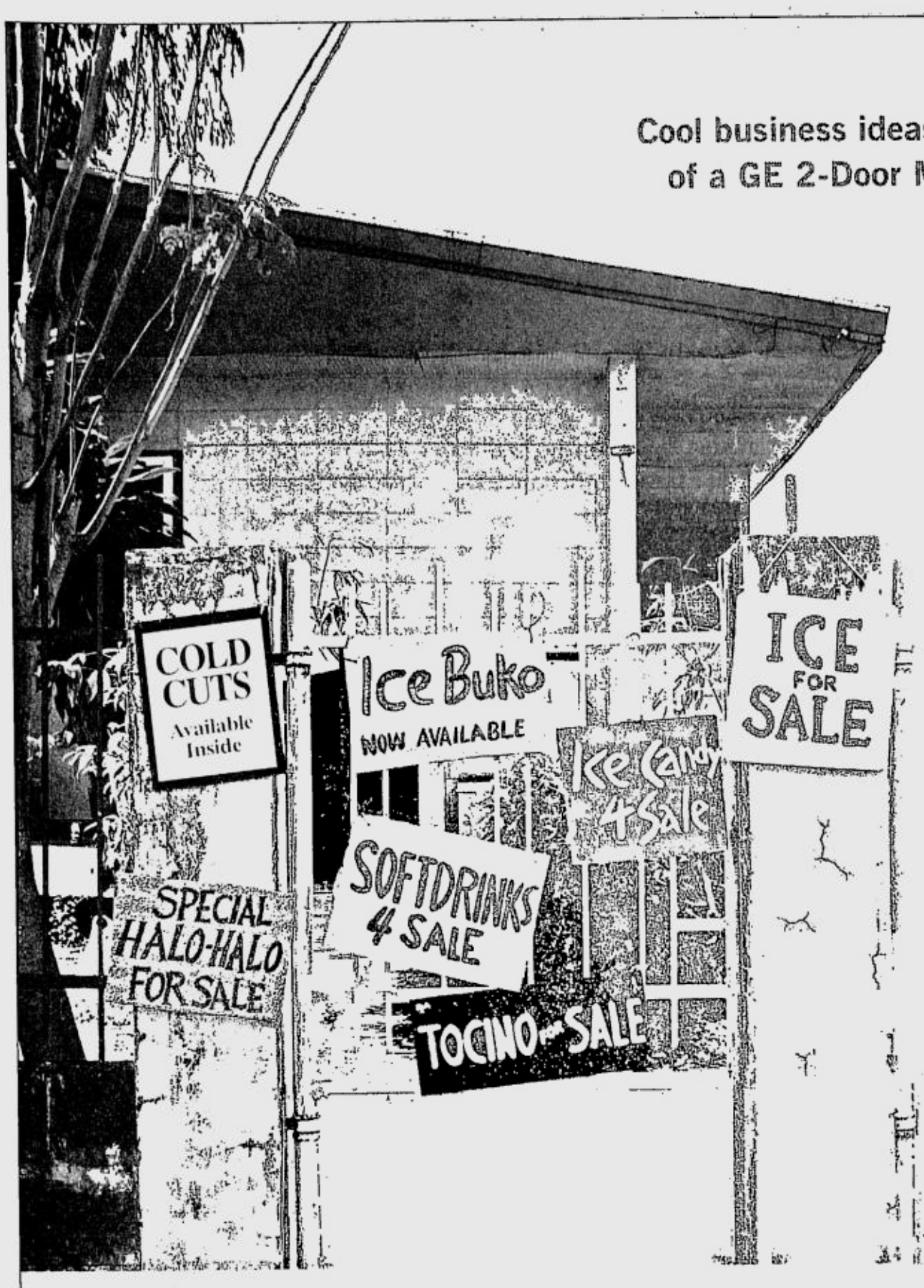

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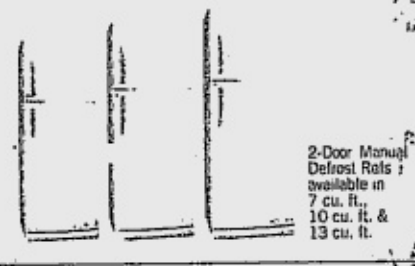

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DOTC SECRETARY LEANDRO MENDOZA ACTED SWIFTLY ON AIRPORT INCIDENT

WE support Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza over his handling of the takeover of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport control tower before dawn last Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003, by two armed men.

The siege and the unfortunate death of former Air Transportation Office Chief Panfilo Villaruel and his aide, Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, who took over the control tower for three hours, was justified under the circumstances.

Mendoza had taken the right measures in dealing with the situation. Before the early morning flights came in, the situation at the control tower had been resolved and normal operations had resumed. Airplane passengers and crew have, therefore, been spared from a real danger to their lives.

Therefore, there is no justification to calls for Secretary Mendoza's resignation on alleged grounds of "serious security breach." Mendoza had, in fact, acted swiftly to end the standoff which if prolonged would have risked the lives of many innocent persons.

Remember, the situation did not involve persons who could be called security risks. The event was unfortunate but it could not have been foreseen. Villaruel was a former chief of the Air Transportation Office, from 1993 to 1996, and had access to areas within the airport because he was conducting a research. Both the security personnel and people working in the control tower knew him personally.

When Villaruel and Catchillar took over the airport control tower, which was very unfortunate, their action had no justification whatsoever even if they had grievances to express. They were risking the lives of passengers and crew of aircraft being guided by the airport facility. Mendoza had to act swiftly because in a few hours from the takeover of the control tower, takeoff and landing operations of aircraft for the day were about to start. The airport control tower guides the arrival of some 70 flights a day which carry about 40,000 passengers. There was so much at stake if the standoff continued.

Villaruel and Catchillar had to be neutralized and the airport control tower had to resume normal operations. Negotiations were conducted to resolve the issue without bloodshed, but during the conversations with Villaruel, the latter was adamant and refused to surrender. Villaruel said he and his companion were prepared to die and that they had, in fact, explosives with them.

The airport control tower incident could not be compared to the Oakwood hotel takeover by junior military officers and their men last July 27 where no shots were fired and no lives lost. Unlike In the Oakwood incident where the mutinous soldiers could have stayed for days on end at the premier hotel without risking lives, the airport incident was dangerous because it would have threatened the lives of plane passengers if the situation continued.

The measures taken to neutralize Villaruel and Catchillar were, thus, appropriate to the circumstances at hand. There was no "overkill" as some sectors are charging. The steps taken were just right for the situation.

We, therefore, disagree with calls for the resignation of Secretary Mendoza.

Mendoza should instead be commended for his swift action on the incident, which if allowed to drag on, would have adverse repercussions to our country's image in the international community.

The men and women in uniform, both in the police and in the military, who responded to the call to resolve this incident should also be commended for putting their lives on the line in order to ensure the safety of all those affected by this incident.

EDWARD HARUN V. PAGUNSAN
Undersecretary for Staff Services
Air Transportation

AGUSTIN R. BENGZON
Undersecretary
Water Transportation

JOSE L. CORTES, JR.
Undersecretary
Rail Transportation

ARTUROT. VALDEZ
Undersecretary
Land Transportation

VIRGILIO L. PEÑA
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ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES
Assistant Secretary
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Istanbul blasts linked to Asian terror attacks

KUALA LUMPUR—There is a clear link between the bombings in Turkey and attacks in Southeast Asia, with al-Qaida using local groups as proxies in its global network of terror, analysts said Friday.

The relationship al-Qaida has with the Turkish Islamists who are believed to have carried out the Istanbul attacks "is exactly the same" as Osama bin Laden's group has with the regional Jemaah Islamiyah, terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna said.

Twenty-seven people died in bombings of the British consulate and the HSBC bank in Istanbul on Thursday, and Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw blamed "terrorists based on al-Qaida and its associates."

JI has been accused of a string of bombings across Southeast Asia, including last year's Bali blasts in Indonesia which killed 202 people—all apparently carried out by local militants with links to al-Qaida.

Gunaratna, an associate professor at the Singapore-based Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said that despite recent arrests JI's contacts with al-Qaida remained intact through its new operational commander, Zulkarnaen.

The Afghan-trained Indonesian, whose real name is Aris Sumarsono, took over after the capture in Thailand in August of Hambali, Asia's most wanted man, Gunaratna said.

Like Hambali, "he is a man who is very close to al-Qaida."

Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at the Australian National University, said it appeared likely that there would be "more attacks by local groups on behalf of al-Qaida, which is to some extent constrained.

"The variety of soft targets is greater than it was, in the sense that targeting a bank as in Istanbul was I think a first."

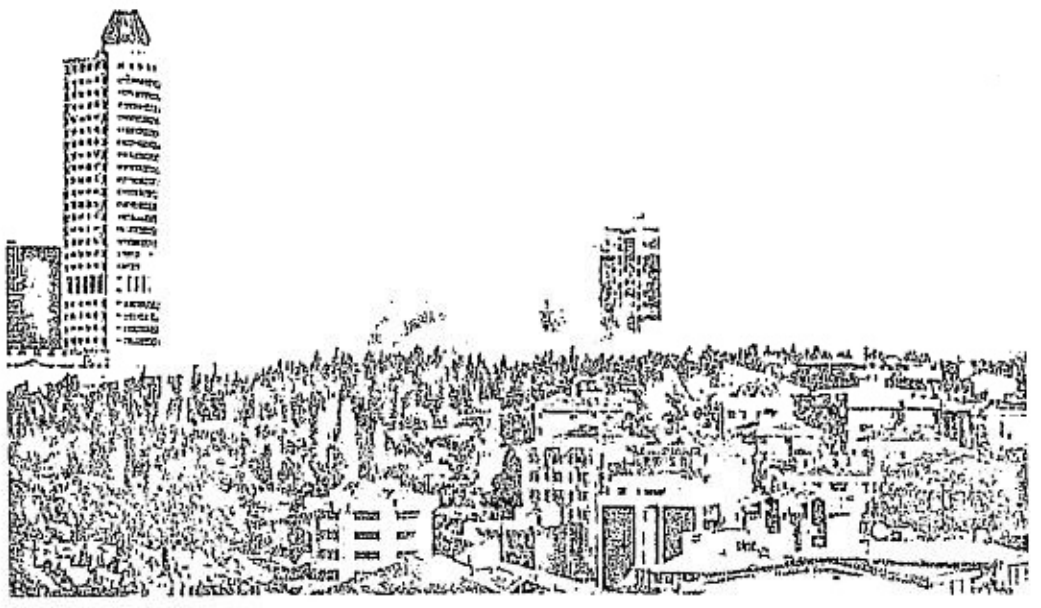
Williams said this indicated a need for Western-linked businesses which in the past had not seen themselves as targets to now think more seriously about their security.

Police in Indonesia, the country worst hit by JI attacks, are reported to have found a terrorist target list for Jakarta which includes two Citibank branches, offices of US-owned oil company Caltex, expatriates' homes, two supermarkets and two international schools.

Police chief General Dai Bachtiar has warned of possible attacks during the Eid al-Fitr holiday next week in a country where two alleged Malaysian JI bombers, Azahari Husin and Noordin Mohammad Top, are still on the run and armed with explosives.

Other countries around the region say they are also on heightened alert.

In Hong Kong, police stepped up security after the attack in Turkey on HSBC bank, which, although now London-based, remains a strong economic symbol in the former British territory where it was founded. *AFP*



THE EXPLOSION at the HSBC Bank building is seen in Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 20. Britain pinned the blasts on al-Qaida. AP

100,000 UK protesters assail Bush

LONDON—Protesters came from every corner of Britain to vent their fury at US President George W. Bush, deriding him on their placards as everything from an empty-headed missile to a pretzel-munching chimp.

BUSH

But police and protesters agreed that Thursday's massive march through London, though laced with anger toward Bush and his major ally British Prime Minister Tony Blair, was a model of peaceful behavior.

"We've had a very good-tempered march, and there have been no particular problems," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Trotter, who oversaw the Metropolitan Police's deployment of more than 5,100 officers along the parade route to Trafalgar Square.

Police said they had arrested at least 67 people for a range of offenses including public disorder, drunkenness, writing graffiti and car crime so far during the president's three-day visit.

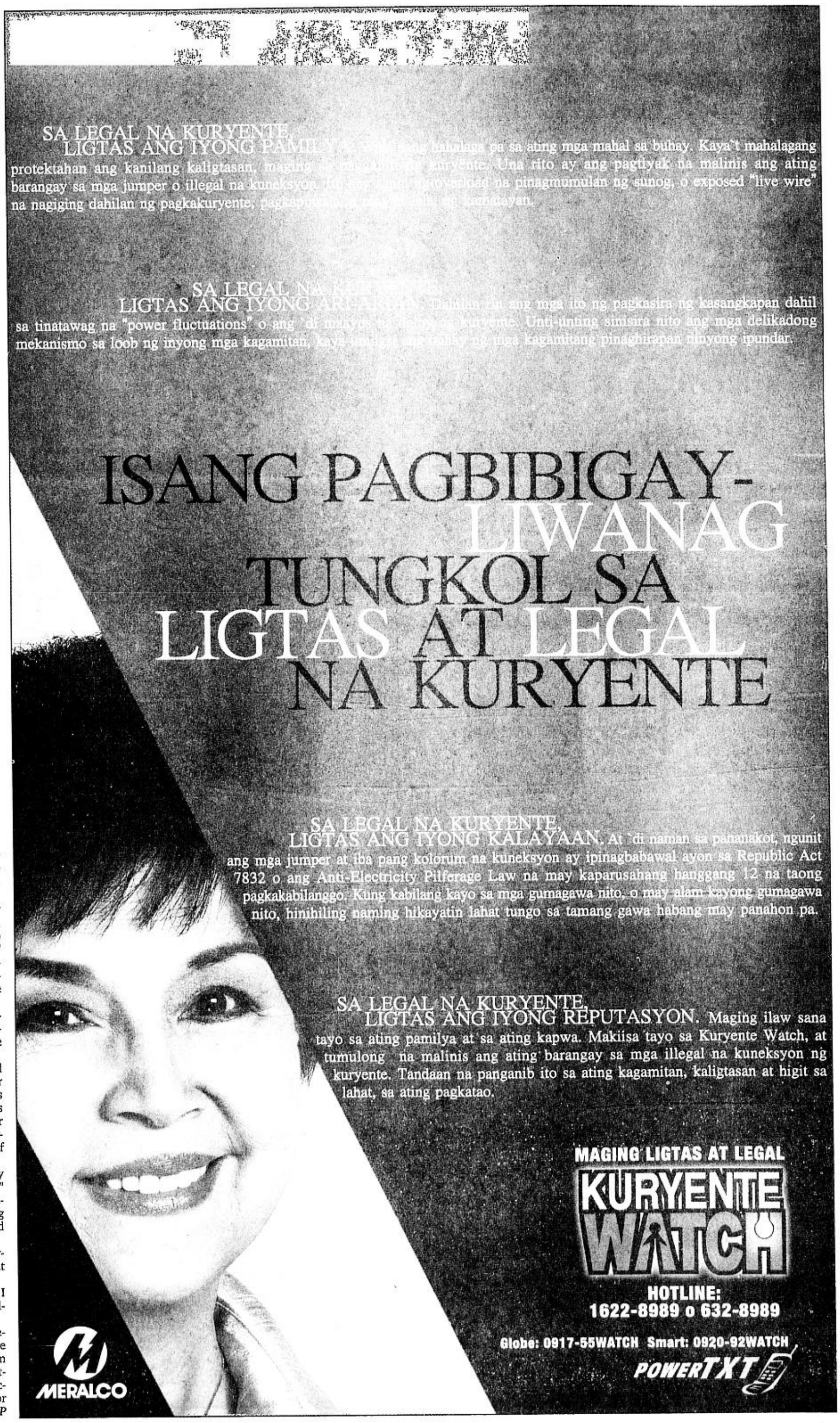
The Stop the War Coalition, which organized the main demonstration and several other smaller protests since Bush's arrival, claimed their efforts had forced the president to restrict his movements around the British capital. They concluded their show of force by knocking over a 5-meter papier-mache statue of Bush, mocking the toppling of Saddam Hussein statues by US forces in Iraq.

"We occupied central London for the day and put George Bush under house arrest," said the march's chief steward, Chris Nineham. "He came to London hoping for a big welcome. Well, only two people welcomed him: Tony Blair and the queen."

Bush and Blair said at a joint news conference they respected the protesters' rights, but suggested they were hypocritical.

"Freedom is beautiful," Bush said. "All I know is that people in Baghdad weren't allowed to do this until recent history."

Thursday's march and rally mobilized between 100,000 and 110,000 people, police said, with a particularly large showing from university students and veteran left-wing critics of Israel. Many waved handwritten placards and banners with hostile messages for Bush that included the crudest of slurs. *AP*



Michael Jackson freed on bail after being handcuffed, arrested

SANTA BARBARA, California—The embattled "King of Pop," Michael Jackson, was freed on $3 million bail Thursday after being handcuffed and arrested on multiple charges of child sex abuse.

Jackson, 45, turned himself in to police in the California city of Santa Barbara, which lies near his Neverland Ranch, two days after an arrest warrant was issued on charges that could see him jailed for years.

"Michael Jackson was taken into custody at 12:05 p.m. at Santa Barbara airport," Sheriff Jim Anderson said.

The black-clad superstar was taken into custody by sheriffs deputies moments after flying in on a private jet. He was driven to the local jail and taken inside with his hands cuffed behind his back.

He emerged after less than an hour waving with one hand and flashing a two-fingered "V" peace salute and thumbs-up signs to a clutch of screaming fans who had gathered to catch a glimpse of the star.

He was booked on multiple counts of "lewd and lascivious behavior" with a child under the age of 14. Each charge carries a jail sentence of up to eight years.

Like all suspects, Jackson was fingerprinted and had a disturbing mugshot taken. He also surrendered his passport to authorities.

Through his lawyer and publicist, Jackson branded the accusations a "big lie" and was released after stumping up $3 million for his bond. He immediately flew back to Las Vegas from where he had just arrived.

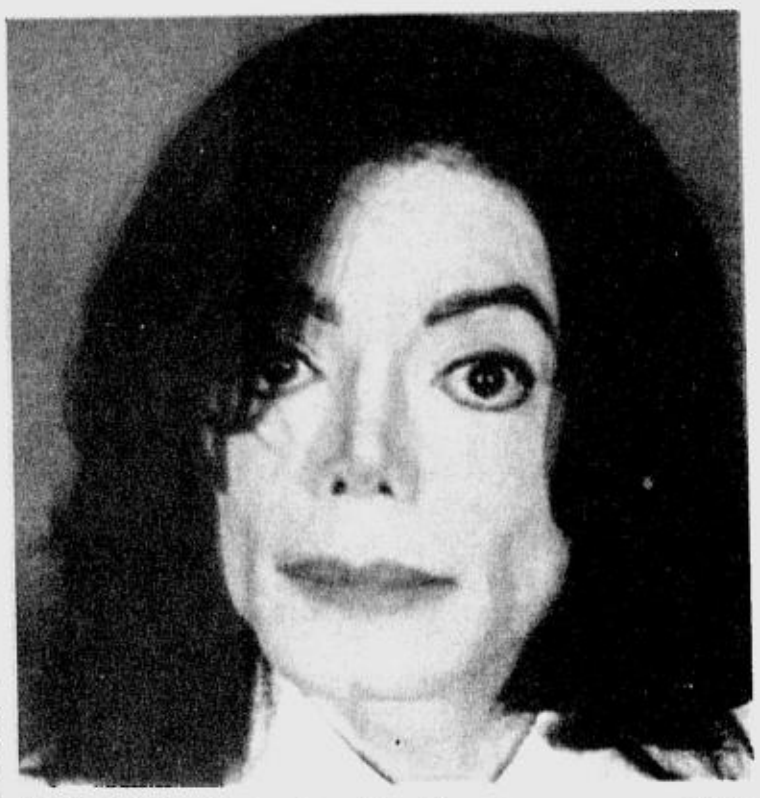
There, he was reunited with his three young children, who were brought on board his plane with their heads covered by blankets. The family then braved a horde of television cameras, fans and autograph seekers as they drove through slow traffic to a luxury hotel and casino resort.

Hundreds of reporters and photographers had earlier swarmed Santa Barbara airport and its sheriff's department as Jackson's plane landed and parked with its nose and door in a hangar to allow him to give himself up to waiting police.

Jackson has spent the last three weeks with his children in Las Vegas filming a music video. Prosecutors said it was up to a juvenile court to decide whether the singer will be allowed retain custody of his brood.

The entertainer's first court hearing was scheduled for Jan. 9 in Santa Barbara.

Jackson, who police said cooperated during the 30-45 minute booking, said through aides he was "outraged" by the charges that he considers a "big lie" and vowed to fight them in court. *AFP*



JACKSON'S sheriff's department booking mug. REUTERS

Baghdad hotels, oil ministry hit by rockets

BAGHDAD—Rockets blasted the Iraqi oil ministry and two central Baghdad hotels used by businessmen and journalists on Friday, wounding several people, military officials and witnesses said.

The attackers concealed their rocket launchers on donkey carts.

Flames and smoke poured from the fourth floor of the oil ministry building which was hit by at least two rockets, the US military said.

Guests evacuated the Sheraton and Palestine hotels, located in a fortified compound near the Tigris river, after they were hit.

A hotel manager said at least one person had been seriously wounded and witnesses at the hotels said they had seen several people with at least light wounds.

"There was one person badly injured. I saw him taken away," said Loay Yunnis, general manager of the Palestine Hotel. "There was blood all over. He was badly injured."

A senior US army officer said attackers had used rocket launchers hidden under agricultural goods in both assaults.

"We do have leads and are pursuing them," Col. Peter Mansoor of the US Army's 1st Armored Division said at the scene of the oil ministry attack.

He said the fire at the ministry was under control. A US military spokesperson said there were no reports of casualties from that attack.

A Reuters reporter close to the hotels about an hour after the blasts said a cart was lying on its side and he could still see several rockets lying on the ground. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Reduced Israel loans

WASHINGTON—In a rare break with Israel, the White House is likely to start making small deductions from a $9 billion package of US loan guarantees for the cost of construction of a barrier through some Palestinian areas, people close to the deliberations said on Thursday. White House officials insisted no decisions had been made about any deductions for the Israeli barrier. But congressional sources said the first deductions could be announced as early as next week and could top $220 million. Additional cuts could be made from future loan installments. Critics of the proposed deductions say they would be so small as to have no impact on construction of the barrier, which Israel says it is building to prevent Palestinian militants from entering Israeli territory and launching attacks. Palestinians describe it as a new "Berlin Wall" that grabs territory and reflects an attempt to create a political border. ***Reuters***

Georgia polls

TBILISI—Opposition supporters began converging on the Georgian capital on Thursday to demand that President Eduard Shevardnadze step down after officials said his allies had won an election the opposition says was rigged. Protesters have paralyzed the nation since the Nov. 2 poll, saying authorities stole victory from the opposition. Now that official results have finally been announced, the protesters plan to block the first session of parliament, raising fears the unrest could turn violent. The United States criticized the vote in Georgia where further trouble could threaten a planned oil pipeline through the country from neighboring Azerbaijan to Turkey. "The results do not accurately reflect the will of the Georgian people, but instead reflect massive vote fraud in Ajaria and other Georgian regions," State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli. ***Reuters***

'Dangerous' diet

WASHINGTON—A nutrition advocacy group warned on Thursday that the popular Atkins diet may cause heart disease and could have killed a teenage dieter. It urged the US government to monitor the high-fat weight loss approach to see if it indeed causes heart disease. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine stressed it could not prove the diet had hurt or killed anyone. But one dieter said he believed the approach clogged his arteries and the parents of a teen-ager who died while on the diet also blamed her meat-heavy regimen. The PCRM called on the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor diets and check for signs that the Atkins and other high-fat, high-protein diets may be harming people's health. ***Reuters***

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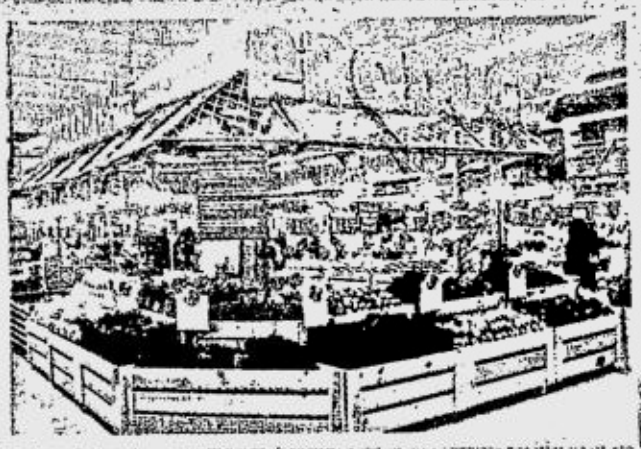

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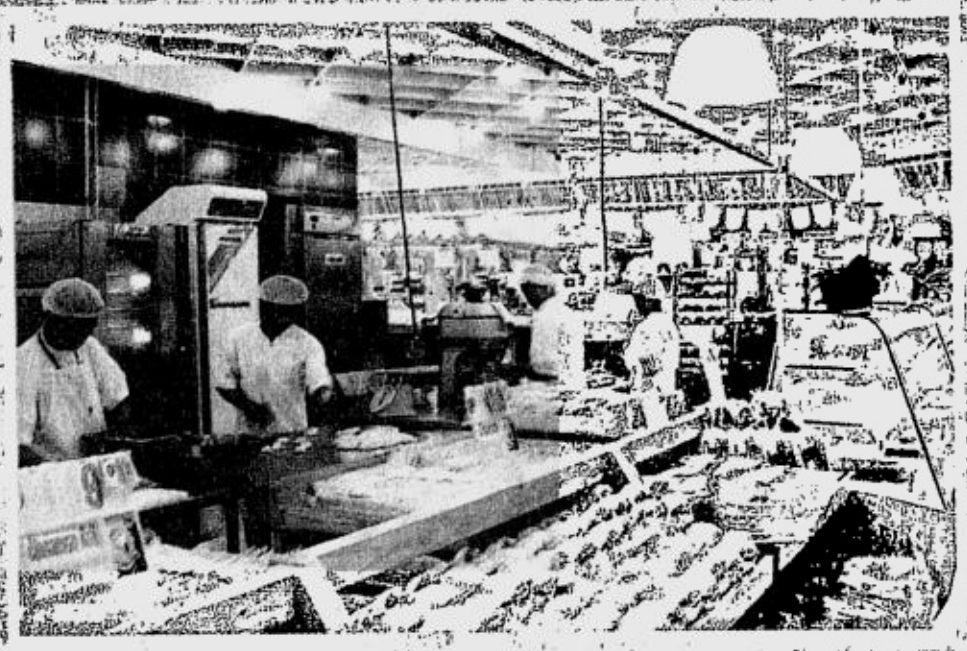

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Celebrity politics

EDITORIAL

NOTHING illustrates the disarray in our politics more starkly than the selection process for the presidency in the 2004 elections.

The process as practiced by both the administration party and the opposition, is thoroughly undemocratic. It is being fixed by a few powerbrokers, composed of the political elites who are deciding among themselves who will be the presidential and vice-presidential contenders, without inputs from the political cadres from the grass roots. The elites are fixing choices from the top and are going to hand down their decisions for ratification by the grass roots.

The ruling administration party, Lakas-CMD, has informally locked the selection of President Macapagal-Arroyo as its presidential candidate without the benefit of any pre-selection or even caucuses at lower levels. The decision was made up for them following the announcement by the President a few months ago that she was going back on her word last Dec. 30 that she would not stand for election in 2004. All the party will do by the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy at the end of the year is to crown her, to the acclaim of the party faithful who never had a hand in her selection.

This lack of participation by the party cadre, except to ratify decisions handed down from above, is not less onerous than the top-down style of the Marcos dictatorship which imposed pre-cooked decisions to the barangays for approval through referendum. Party elites are now fixing the selection of the Lakas vice-presidential candidate, in which process the President is forging an alliance with the Lopez family by drafting a Lopez hireling at ABS-CBN, Sen. Noli de Castro, who topped the last senatorial election and whose popularity is calculated to counter the popularity of an actor who has been touted as the probable opposition presidential candidate, Fernando Poe Jr. Both De Castro and Poe have one element in common—popularity—and little else to recommend them for the demanding job of president of the republic.

The rigging of the presidential selection process by both the administration and the opposition leaves the people very little choices except those selected by elite political fixers. It has come to a point that the opposition, which is obsessed by popularity as the sole credential for high office, is considering fielding Sen. Loren Legarda, also from the ABS-CBN stable, as its candidate for vice president.

Care should be taken in selecting candidates for vice president. A vice president is only a breath away from the presidency, and the chances of the country inheriting unqualified individuals for the presidency through a flawed process of selection and a possible disaster cannot be dismissed lightly. De Castro's and Legarda's base is media, and it reflects the paucity of the recruitment field for the presidency and the vice presidency that the voters' choices are narrowed down to the media sector, including television and movies.

The opposition is not being more democratic in its selection process. It is having its own "road show," in which there is hardly any participation by the party cadres of Sen. Edgardo Angara's PDP-Laban. All this exercise has amounted to is a push for Poe and trotting out an unappetizing short list that includes Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

After the dismantling of the two-party system, which despite its flaws, offered voters a more rigorously screened (through the party conventions and provincial cadres) field of presidential and vice presidential contenders, film studios and TV channels have become the recruiting grounds of political parties. But unlike parties, these informal mechanisms do not aggregate demands of sectoral interests. Television and movies teach song-and-dance routines. Parties organize policies and programs. Thus, neither media celebrities nor their stage (like studios and ABS-CBN) cannot be made accountable for what's wrong after elections. They have no programs to offer, just glitz. When things go wrong after the polls, voters find themselves holding the bag in this con game called celebrity politics.

Elite powerbrokers, making deals with oligarchic interests, have a grave responsibility to offer voters a wider choice for national leadership than just celebrities. We tend to blame the people for making bad electoral decisions. But the fault lies not in them. It lies with the powerbrokers and fixers who don't demand rigorous tests for those seeking high public office. They are dumping garbage on the voters.

Two irresponsible acts

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT is incredible that ex-Congressman Mark Jimenez was allowed to collect his salaries and allowances as a member of the House of Representatives despite the decision of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal ousting him from the chamber for lack of the residence qualification.

That decision became final and executory on June 5, 2003, and was duly communicated to Speaker Jose de Venecia as head of the Lower House. Yet it was only when Jimenez was convicted in the United States of the offenses to which he had pleaded guilty that his privileges as a member of our Congress were discontinued.

Speaker De Venecia says he had deferred this action because of a petition for certiorari filed by Jimenez that had not yet been decided by the Supreme Court. What he might have deferred was the payment of such perquisites pending resolution of the petition. After all, Jimenez's motion for reconsideration of the HRET decision had been denied, which made such decision prima facie valid despite the certiorari proceedings.

Jimenez would have waited until the final ruling of the Court; he was not in a hurry, nor did he have a definite right to be so after his ouster by the HRET. On the other hand, De Venecia took a big risk in authorizing the payment of such benefits, if only because of the difficulty in recovering them if the certiorari petition should fail.

At any rate, why has the disqualified congressman now been removed from the rolls of the House of Representatives when, as De Venecia had earlier argued, the Supreme Court had not yet acted on his petition?

If De Venecia's excuse were to be accepted, then the blame must rest with the Supreme Court for sitting on the petition. This could have been easily resolved as it was based on factual questions that are normally not reviewed by the highest court except where there is provable grave abuse of discretion.

There is no such abuse in this case, where it was clearly established that Jimenez was not a resident of the sixth district of Manila but of Forbes Park, where he conducted business in a plush mansion. The Supreme Court could have easily dismissed the petition on the basis of this widely published and undeniable fact.

The Court will probably say that it had its hands full and was not obliged to drop everything, including the impeachment case, just to resolve the Jimenez petition. It didn't have to drop anything as the case was not that difficult or earth-shaking; in fact, it could just have relied on the report of its processors or researchers, as it usually does.

And speaking of delay, what's holding decision of the election protest against Jimenez involving his alleged margin of only 768 votes questioned by Pablo Ocampo, his nearest rival, on the ground of vote-buying and other election irregularities committed by the protestee?

The current term of the House of Representatives will expire on June 30, 2004, or less than six months from now, and Ocampo, if he wins—and should—will enjoy only a hollow victory. I am aware of the heavy workload of the HRET but I hope it can give priority to his protest, which should be easier to decide than its other cases.

On another case involving also irresponsible action, I go to the report that President Macapagal-Arroyo is in favor of allowing Joseph Estrada to go on medical leave abroad.

While stressing that Erap's motion is for the courts to decide, Ms Macapagal will, for "humanitarian" reasons, instruct her prosecutors not to oppose but in fact to join in such motion. Government security agents shall accompany him, at public expense, to prevent his escape and ensure his return.

How can they do this when they have no authority in the United States to arrest anybody even for jaywalking? And who will pay their per diems and other expenses of plane fare, board and lodging, clothing allowance and other perquisites? To be near Erap at all times lest he escape, they will have to travel first class with him and stay in the same ritzy hotels where their quarry will be staying.

GMA says she is doing this in a spirit of national reconciliation, but only those who are afraid of losing their jobs if she loses in 2004 believe her. The rest of the nation is not deceived by her obvious *pakulo*. She is reaching out to Erap, and Imelda, and the INC, and the NPA, and the Copa, and the MILF, and other voter groups to get their support in her election bid.

In supporting Erap's motion to seek medical treatment abroad, she is also demeaning our own medical profession, which includes many prestigious physicians specialized in treating our fastidious patient's affliction. She doesn't trust them either. His local doctors have joined the two in downgrading their expert colleagues vis-à-vis the more expensive if not necessarily better doctors abroad.

I hope the Sandiganbayan will have better sense than to believe the President's crocodile tears for Joseph Estrada's knees. She is up to her political tricks again with Erap as his willing accomplice and co-beneficiary in hoodwinking the people.

Cause for celebration

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

HERE'S a true story that may make your day, especially if you are sick and tired of reading about the heels and idiots pretending to be knights in shining armor (complete with "principles" that are actually vested interests in disguise) parading around the country. It will leave you outraged and frustrated at the outset, but it has a happy ending! Justice actually triumphs, the good guys win, and what is more, there is **hope** for the judiciary. What more can one ask? Read on.

It starts pretty tamely. About eight years ago (in December 1995), a three-hectare upland farm in Nueva Ecija changed hands in what was, on the face of it, an ordinary transaction. The transfer of ownership was duly registered and recorded. The new owner, Nigaderio (that is his real first name, but let's call him "Nig" for short), took over, and planted his crop. Unfortunately, he did not live happily ever after.

Just as he was ready to harvest, Gerardo ("Ger" for short), entered the scene, claiming to be the tenant of the land, complete with leasehold contract with the former owner, and therefore with a preferential right to redeem the land. Possession being nine-tenths of the law, Nig got to stay, right? Wrong. Ger happened to have connections with the mayor of the town (we call him "Vel") who called Nig and "suggested" that he clear out of the land because there was a prior claim. Vel having a certain reputation, Nig cleared out, sans the harvest.

Now the Via Crucis for Nig started. Ger filed a case in May 1996 against Nig for redemption and ejectment before the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Parab) of Nueva Ecija. It took Parab more than one and half years to decide (December 1997). The case against Nig was dismissed, mainly because, as Provincial Adjudicator Napoleon Baguilat reasoned, Ger should have filed the case against the original owner, not against Nig. (N.B. Nig's lawyer, Jesus Delfin, observes that the Municipal Trial Court, not Parab, has exclusive jurisdiction over ejectment cases.)

Victory for the good guys? No. Ger filed a motion for reconsideration, amending his complaint by adding other causes of action and new defendants: the original owner Jul and her attorney-in-fact Cua. Less than six months after issuing his original decision, Baguilat reversed himself. He ordered Nig to "reconvey" the land to Ger, among other things. This was in June 1998. It had been two and a half years since Nig bought the land.

Nig and his two co-defendants appealed the case to the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab). It took Darab another two and a half years, but in January 2001, it reversed Baguilat, deciding the case in favor of Nig, Jul and Cua. It turned out that Ger, while claiming to be a tenant, was actually a managerial employee at Warner Lambert Philippines, and his employment antedated his "leasehold contract" (which was notarized by an unauthorized person who turned out to be Ger's lawyer). It's been five years since Nig bought the land. Victory at last? Not on your life.

Ger asked for issuance of Status Quo Order Ante Litem Motem and Motion for Clarificatory Judgment. (Don't ask me what those are; suffice it to say that they are dilatory tactics which Darab, seemingly in violation of its own rules, allowed.) This won Ger another two and a half years, until the end of August, this year, which was the length of time it took Darab to deny the motions. It would have taken longer, but Agrarian Reform Secretary Obet Pagdanganan, our first white knight, got wind of the delays, and also of reports of attempts to extort money from Nig et al.—no pay, no decision. With Pagdanganan taking an interest in the case, the alleged "syndicate" could not operate. By now, though, more than seven and a half years had passed since Nig bought the land.

Ger had one more ace up his sleeve. He went to the Court of Appeals. When the good guys filed their response, Cua was approached by another "fixer," with a message: Pay, if you want a favorable decision. Cua refused.

Downhearted, our good guys were resigned to another two and a half years' delay, with the threat of reversal. Frustrated. Thoroughly cynical about our justice system.

This is where the story took a wondrous turn, and a second white knight, in the person of Court of Appeals Justice Martin S. Villarama Jr. (MSV for short) appeared. Ger's appeal to the Court of Appeals was filed on Sept. 18, 2003, and assigned to MSV. On Sept. 26, Nig et al. were asked to respond. They did on Oct. 16.

The papers were forwarded to MSV by Oct. 29. And the decision was promulgated on Nov. 6. Instead of two and a half years, it took one and a half months. Not only did MSV deny Ger's appeal, he did it in record time.

Record time for the justice system, but, it seems, not record time for MSV. The Philippine Statistical Yearbook 2003 shows that the Court of Appeals had a case backlog in 2002 of 22,587. Spread over the number of justices (assuming no vacancies) that would amount to more than 400 cases each. MSV's current pending caseload is 10.

I do not know MSV personally. But my sources in the Court of Appeals tell me that he is a workaholic, and obviously efficient (reminds me of Supreme Court Justice Nonoy Bellosillo, who retired last week with no pending cases: he would come to work at 6:30 a.m., and leave at 11 p.m., including weekends). What's more, says my sources, there is no sacrifice of quality even as he disposes of 25 to 35 cases a month. They also swear to his integrity.

We grind our teeth at the rotten apples in the judicial barrel. Let us celebrate one of the good ones.

Did recent survey discourage FPJ?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NEWS from the grapevine is that movie king Fernando Poe Jr. is more reluctant than ever to throw his hat into the political ring, now that the latest SWS survey placed him at No. 4 with 14 percent. President Macapagal-Arroyo is at third with 16 percent, while Raul Roco was at second with 20 percent. Sen. Noli de Castro was ahead of the pack with 27 percent, while Sen. Panfilo Lacson trailed at No. 5 with 10 percent. His so-so rating is really a big problem for FPJ who has been reluctant to join politics from the beginning but is being urged to join the presidential contest by a political opposition whose choices appear to be very limited. Obviously Senators Edgardo Angara and Vicente Sotto cannot accept the candidacy of Lacson because of his controversial past, and they have been at the forefront of the draft-FPJ campaign. Lacson boycotted the Bicol "roadshow" and it had to be scuttled. But with FPJ's poor showing (as well as Lacson's), the opposition is in a big quandary as to whom to field.

* * *

It's easy to imagine De Castro being wooed assiduously to head the opposition ticket since he has consistently topped the surveys. But he's talking to Palace emissaries as well, and the agenda could include a draft as GMA's running mate. There's speculation that the Palace is talking with his bosses at ABS-CBN about a vice-presidential draft, but "Kabayan" denies knowledge of such a deal. De Castro has given no indication of his preference, giving the impression that he has not made up his mind. Some of his Senate colleagues note, however, that when they address him as "Mr. President," he now flashes his Mona Lisa smile, unlike before when he would protest vigorously. *Nakikiliti na kaya si* Kabayan?

* * *

But what about Roco, who has fared well in the surveys, is the opposition talking to him? It's difficult to think so, inasmuch as he was one of the leading lights of the impeachment trial, and I can't imagine former President Estrada campaigning for him. He also had a falling out with Angara who founded and headed the Accra Law Office and apparently they never patched things up. But it's just as difficult to imagine Roco moving over to the opposition where he has nothing to gain and everything to lose, including the support of civil society groups.

* * *

The death of kidnap victim Betti Sy, a Coca-Cola executive, has once again highlighted the need for an honest-to-goodness crackdown on kidnap-for-ransom activities. The new anti-kidnapping czar, former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, has been under tremendous pressure to produce quick results. Sen. Panfilo Lacson twitted Reyes about the fact that he has no background in police work. Reyes indeed came to his new job with a handicap, but there is no reason why he cannot succeed since as he is an intelligent fellow. But he must have the full support of the Palace and the police and military agencies. The times call for full cooperation all around to eradicate this menace to society. This is no time for carping or crowing.

* * *

The Philippine National Oil Corp. (PNOC) won last week first prize in one of the five major categories of the Energy Globe Awards in Linz, Austria, considered the "Oscars" of the energy industry. The PNOC was recognized for its solar homes system, which helps households in far-flung communities that cannot hook up to the regular grid, acquire solar energy for simple needs, such as running a radio or black and white TV and study lights for one or two rooms. With technology from Shell Solars and partial subsidy from the Dutch government, the PNOC is able to make accessible the whole system consisting of a solar panel and the battery that stores energy for about P19,000, payable over a period of five years at about P300 a month.

I hope that the Energy Globe Award will spur the Macapagal administration to push solar energy in our remotest barangays, for this is the most sustainable form of energy for our sun-drenched islands and it will make us less dependent on imported and expensive fuel. Lighting up our remote off-grid households will spur progress and help educate our students more.

Former Israel Ambassador to Manila Irit Ben Abba once told me that to save on fuel oil, Israel, which has no oil whatsoever in a vast oil-producing region, lights up its streets by using solar energy, with big solar panels attached to lamp posts catching energy from the sun. Every Israeli household is required to install solar panels, too. We ought to follow Israel's example.

* * *

Friends of former National Security Adviser and UP president Emmanuel "Noel" Soriano will be happy to know he's steadily recovering from a stroke he suffered some years back which affected his motor movements and his speech. Part of the reason for his recovery is his having a devoted family in his wife Angge, their children and grandchildren, and a coterie of friends from the old UP crowd. Another reason is that he has been into art therapy, now widely acknowledged as one of the best ways for stroke patients to recover. Noel has been actively painting the past few years and has held a number of exhibits at the UPSCA Delaney Hall. In fact, today is the last day of the "Aphasia" art exhibit at the Philippine Heart Center lobby where he is among three patient-exhibitors (if this exhibit notice is quite late, that's because I was away for a week).

Friends of Noel who want to catch his art show and invest in a painting or two have all day today to do so. He shows up at the Heart Center at 11 a.m. for this show and he will be there today. Call Angge Soriano at 374-2170.

If I had a gun

YOUNG BLOOD

Carljoe Javier

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THANK God I don't have a gun or bomb. Fight Club's "Project Mayhem" appeals to me so much. As it probably did to the Magdalo group and Capt. Panfilo Villaruel. They decided to take matters into their own hands. That's why I'm happy I don't have a gun, because I often want to do what they did.

I write for a magazine. I earn a pittance and the government gets 10 percent of it. When I get my check, I think about what the government is doing with my money. Some of it comes back to me since I study at the University of the Philippines. But every day I see car plates with the number "8" attached to Pajeros and Expeditions. I read about the pork barrel getting bigger while funds for important projects are being cut and how we spent so much for Bush's visit although we don't invest enough in education. I also wonder why some of our congressmen deem it worth their time and our tax money to push an impeachment complaint that's unconstitutional.

Everything that I'm whining about amounts to just a tiny bit of the nation's angst. I am angry about so many things and I seldom find an outlet for expressing this anger and frustration. It makes me mad that many college graduates are trooping to call centers or enrolling in caregiver courses, and that we're happy sending our people abroad to work and sometimes to be exploited by foreigners because "Third-World country *lang kasi tayo e.*"

I'm sure that the Magdalo group and Villaruel felt just as angry and frustrated as I do, that they felt the hopelessness and the longing for change and heard the command, "Do something!"

The problem is they didn't bother to think things through before they acted. And in so doing, they further weakened our already fragile state.

What did they think they were doing? Did they think of themselves as saviors?

Take the Magdalo officers who got pissed off and decided to mount the Oakwood mutiny. You realize that had these guys not been with the military, they would have been quickly condemned as terrorists. They took over a portion of the Ayala Center and planted bombs around. Such conduct doesn't merit all the sympathy and attention it got.

Which brings us to the Naia control tower takeover. One of Villaruel's relatives said that things like this don't happen in real life, only in the movies. In fact it reminded me of "Die Hard 2," which had Bruce Willis' John McClane doing more running with guns blazing than the SWAT team sent to defuse the situation at the Naia.

Now the big issue is the SWAT team's use of force. I, for one, can't question the SWAT team. It did something that was terribly dangerous—climbing up a tower to confront two guys with guns and explosives who were threatening to blow the place up. I'm not saying he would have done it, but there's the possibility that Villaruel could have feigned surrender and detonated a bomb. I don't think the SWAT team or anyone else in that situation would have taken that chance.

It was terrible to hear that tape where Villaruel was shouting surrender, followed by gunfire and his labored breathing. But he had just taken over the control tower and threatened to blow up everything. That didn't hold too much promise of success for negotiations much less call to the kind of hero worship he's receiving now.

What if the SWAT team didn't act as quickly as it did? What if he'd blown up the tower? What if there was a plane waiting to land? That's where all the Monday morning quarterbacking gets us.

A more question to ask now is what we can learn from the experience. I know that their actions have generated a lot of sympathy. They believed in certain principles and felt they were worth fighting for. Perhaps they thought that only by taking extreme measures could their voices be heard.

While I sympathize with them, I cannot condone their actions. Resorting to violence or taking up arms can never be a rational way to air grievances.

Thank God I don't have a gun, because the temptation to do something drastic becomes so strong when you are armed. But there's something else that stops me from taking matters into my own hands: the hope that a peaceful way can be found to change things and make everything better. I pray that I will be able to hold on to this hope, because I don't know what will happen once hope is lost.

The generations ahead of us and the ones running the Philippines now must stop and ponder over the fact that so many of our youth don't even want to live in this country. So many are leaving not just for the money but because they have lost hope of living a good, full life here. What weary military men do with guns and bombs, the youth do with their feet, expressing their hopelessness by applying for jobs abroad.

Many of us feel this way. But instead of helping, these reckless military men just made things worse. Although they had good intentions, the immediate result of their actions was to add to the pervading gloom. They have put in us a fear of coups and destabilization plots.

What their actions have done is not to enlighten people or promote democratic change. They have accomplished the opposite, which is to encourage people to pick up guns and take over strategic locations, swearing by democracy while planting bombs all over the place.

The challenge for the government now is to demonstrate that the avenues for articulation of grievances remain open. It should show to everyone that the best way to be heard is not to go take over a building.

Then it should cut all the red tape and make it easier for us to help make this country a better place. It should make us feel like that is our business, too.

Military men can pull one of their stunts and they're sure to be in the news and they will be heard by everyone. But who else will be heard like that?

What about the youth? We are often criticized for being apolitical and apathetic, we who prefer to retreat to virtual worlds like Ragnarok and are more likely to spend hours updating Friendster accounts than thinking about issues.

Our leaders and elders should reach out to the youth and make us feel important and make us feel that we matter and that they care. Make us feel responsible for the things happening around us. Give us the feeling that we can do something to help make the Philippines a better country. And don't tell us the best way to do that is to leave and work abroad and send back dollars. Give us a reason to stay and to believe in this country and in ourselves. Give us hope.

Carljoe Javier, 22, is a Creative Writing senior at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He is president of the UP Writer's Club and a former chair of the UP Samahan sa Agham Pampulitika.

Independent poll count still needed

COMMENTARY

Ruby Bloom Rule and John J. Carroll, S.J
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IF war is too important to be left to generals, elections are too important to be left to the Commission on Elections. This is particularly true in the present overheated and explosive political atmosphere of the Philippines where endemic corruption, coup attempts and rumors of coups and impeachment complaints against respected justices of the Supreme Court have eroded the nation's confidence in its political institutions. The last thing the nation needs at the moment is a failure of election, or an election which is seen by the general populace to be anything less than "squeaky-clean."

Of course, no one in the Philippines ever loses an election—one either wins or is "cheated." Thus, we can expect a new crop of election protests next year, indeed probably more than in the past, due to "glitches" in the counting machines and electronic transmission systems being set up for the first time nationwide, as well as lapses on the part of inexperienced personnel and complicated support systems. Here the Comelec will be required to make decisions, and its own credibility will be crucial.

But unfortunately, the many accusations and suspicions, whether founded or unfounded, against the officials of the Comelec, and the history of infighting within the commission, have seriously damaged the confidence of the people in its ability to run a clean and honest election.

Hence it is more important than ever that respected and committed members of the general public, non-politicians who are not political appointees and have no axes to grind, have full access to Comelec procedures and be authorized to do their own independent count of votes. It is useless and self-defeating for the Comelec to claim that an independent count, e.g. by Namfrel, is superfluous on the ground that its own system is in place and can do the job. The system is far from being in place, and only weeks ago the plans were to automate the counting in selected areas only.

It will be equally useless, in the event of evident fraud and massive election protests or even violence, for Chairman Benjamin Abalos blandly to announce that "the elections were generally peaceful and orderly."

People are suspicious, for reasons which go back months or even years; and the more that the Comelec stonewalls on the issue of accrediting Namfrel, the more suspicious they become. With good reason, they ask, "If the Comelec is so confident that it can conduct a clean and honest election, what has it to fear from an independent observer? An independent count will serve to verify its own count, and provide an added defense against unfounded election protests."

The recent hearings on the application for accreditation of Namfrel could have cleared the air somewhat and opened the way to constructive collaboration. And it will be badly in need of collaboration in view of its recent decision to push through with automated counting throughout the country plus electronic transmission of results.

Yet, the hearing at the Comelec on Nov. 13 did little to clear the air. All it did was reveal a very defensive attitude on the part of Chairman Benjamin Abalos, Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and lawyer Sixto Brillantes.

Early on, the discussion focused on the fact that Namfrel has never in previous elections produced complete results. To this the reply was that Namfrel receives only the fourth copy of election returns; sometimes this is not given at all, sometimes it is taken by other citizens' arms, sometimes it is unreadable, and sometimes it contains obvious discrepancies, such as having a total number of votes greater than the number of registered voters in a precinct. Namfrel can work only with the material which it receives, and makes a point of setting aside returns which are clearly erroneous. Thus, it would seem unfair to hold it responsible for the Comelec's errors.

As the hearing went on, however, it became more personal and indeed more petty. Tancangco berated Namfrel for the impeachment complaint filed against her and cried foul over the accusation that she was responsible for the stalling of full automation in the last election. Abalos for his part took strong exception to criticism coming from Namfrel, and announced that it would be accredited only if it agreed to stop criticizing the poll body, which sounds a bit like gagging the watchdog because it barks too much!

Finally, Brillantes made much of the presence of priests and religious in Namfrel, as though they were not entitled to be concerned about the national interest.

It was sad that the hearing, which all had hoped would lay a solid basis for mutual collaboration in ensuring a clean and fair election, turned out as it did. Sad because it added to the distrust and suspicions under which the Comelec labors. And sadder than that because it bodes ill for the crucial elections of 2004 and indeed for the future of the democratic process in this country.

The women of my country

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FOR those of you who haven't had a chance to read "The Story of the Lopez Family" of Balayan, Batangas, the speech delivered by Clemencia Lopez at the annual meeting of the New England Woman Suffrage Association in 1902 may beguile you to get yourself a copy. It shows just how advanced and educated some of our women were even then and how this continues to be a tradition in this country. Remember that at the time, most Americans were of the opinion that we were no better than "savages without education or morals."

While American women were fighting "for the right to take part in national life," the Filipinos were fighting "for the right to have a national life to take part in." The part of her speech and observations that do not appear to differ too much from present-day opinions is this:

"You will no doubt be surprised and pleased to learn that the condition of women in the Philippines is very different from that of the women of any country in the East, and that it differs very little from the general condition of the women of this country.

"Mentally, socially, and in almost all the relations of life, our women are regarded as the equals of our men. You will also be surprised to know that this equality of women in the Philippines is not a new thing. It was not introduced from Europe, but was innate, and the natural expression of the love and respect which a man ought to feel toward his mother, his wife and his daughters. And I believe there is no country in the world where family life is held in higher esteem, or where there is more respect for family relations than in the Philippine Islands."

Lopez goes on to quote Antonio de Morga (wrongly describing him as "the first Spanish governor general") who gave an interesting account of Philippine life in the 17th century. "The grand ladies," he says, "wear crimson, and some have silk and other stuffs woven with gold, and edged with fringes and other ornaments... Many wear chains of gold around the neck, bracelets on the wrists, earrings, and rings on the fingers, of gold and precious stones... They are also daintily shod, with shoes of velvet and embroidered with gold, and wear white robes like petticoats. They also use silk parasols, which they carry as a protection against sun and rain... They take great care of their hair—rejoicing in its being very black—which they tie gracefully in a knot at the back of the head. They take much care also of their teeth."

Dr. De Morga also gives a brief description of their occupations, and of the respect in which women were then held, which corresponds with the conditions found in this country: "The women have for their employment and occupation needle-work (i.e., fancy work), in which they excel very much, as in all kinds of sewing... In their visits, and in going about the streets and to the temples, both men and women are careful in their deportment. The ladies go in front, and behind them come their husbands, fathers and brothers."

Lopez found this remarkable and contrasted it to the condition of women in India and China and the East in general.

Describing Filipinas at the turn of the century, she noted that they were not as educated as their American counterparts but this was due to lack of opportunity (just as it is today). They were generally devoted to their families, willing to make every sacrifice for their children, very faithful to their husbands and involved in their business either as cashier or book-keeper so that in case they died, they could carry on successfully. In the rural classes, the wife helped in the lighter agricultural work, helping to harvest the rice, corn and other grains.

Philippine women were also devoted to their parents, and ready to sacrifice themselves, in the sense that they seldom married without parental consent.

Most women were busy with domestic work. There were those who did embroidery in silk and in linen; those of the middle classes wove cloth of silk, piña and linen. In some towns, many from well to-do families wove the cloth for the household in their own homes, although, as Lopez pointed out, in her own home they had servants for that purpose.

Filipinas were very fond of music, but the majority preferred sad and melancholy airs. Many played the piano and harp, and some the violin and guitar. But very few devote themselves much to reading. (Alas, the situation has not improved.)

As far as Lopez knew, there weren't any Filipinas with the title of doctor or lawyer, or who had entered any profession, except teaching. Nor was there any university open to women in Manila even if there were six good schools for girls, some of which had as many as 300 pupils, and the instruction given compared favorably with that of the best schools in Spain.

Filipinas were for the independence of the Philippines. "So true is this that the present Spanish archbishop, who is not accustomed in his own country to the idea of equality between the sexes, apparently came to the conclusion that the Philippine women are the superiors of the men, and understand political questions better."

Lopez thought this wasn't true, but it looked that way only because Filipino men could not express themselves freely due to the sedition laws.

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Unjust accusations vs Maynilad

FOR the past few weeks, Maynilad has been unjustly accused by the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) of distributing contaminated water, and neglecting its obligations to repair decrepit pipes in its concession area.

The rush to judgment is reminiscent of frame-ups in kangaroo courts used by Stalin, McCarthy, Mao and the Khmer Rouge where targets of hate are adjudged guilty without due process. Yet, the accusers are the first to cry "human rights!" even when they trample on the rights of others. Notorious for absolutism and imperiousness, they ignore the basic precepts of truth, justice and civility in their public diktats to suit their biases and paymasters.

Maynilad has not and never will sabotage itself. It is not in the business of destroying its pipes, contaminating its water system and harming its customers. These are done by those who steal water and use booster pumps which are punishable by law. Contamination is also traceable to filthy surroundings due to poor sanitation and poor civics. These are factors beyond Maynilad's control but which are being pinned on Maynilad by the FDC.

It is a case of the guilty being accorded the mantle of innocence while the innocent are deemed guilty on their say-so; disregarding findings of the Department of Health and the local government units that disprove their allegations. These instrumentalities of government should be the first to take Maynilad to task but they have not done so. Furthermore, based on obtained information, the alleged UP study of fecal matter in Malabon's water supply is a case of gross misrepresentation by the FDC. It misread the data and forced its conclusions to fit its adversarial stance against Maynilad.

In the past three years, Maynilad has spent over P4.0 billion to improve water supply and distribution. But given the state of the water system it inherited in 1997 and the socioeconomic-political factors it has to contend with, Maynilad's finances could never do enough.

That's why Maynilad sought since 1998 timely and adequate tariff increases and/or a restructuring of the MWSS' debt service of some $800 million. Without these, Maynilad's limited finances could not fully service the MWSS' debt and its customers at the same time.

That's why project financing for $350 million from a consortium of international lenders was needed. In turn, the lenders sought political and regulatory stability. Unfortunately, the risks were too much and after three years of fruitless negotiations, Maynilad and the MWSS went to arbitration.

While negotiating with its term lenders, Maynilad raised its equity from P3.0 billion to P5.2 billion, and secured $165 million in short-term financing. But this was still short of the funds needed to satisfy both the MWSS and Maynilad's customers, which is why it opted to defer concession fee payments to ensure continued service delivery.

These funds were applied to install almost 190,000 new connections, of which almost 40 percent went to the urban poor through the Bayan Tubig program and other service delivery improvements.

—RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III, president, Maynilad Water Services, Quezon City

LETTERS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Misplaced and condemnable compassion for plunderers

COMPASSION for the poor is a good Christian virtue but President Macapagal-Arroyo's compassion for big plunderers like ousted President Joseph Estrada and San Miguel king Danding Cojuangco is most immoral and condemnable. In her obsession to win the votes of the pro-Estrada camp and gain financial and political backing from Cojuangco, GMA kills the very essence of People Power by allowing the biggest plunderers in government to go scot-free. We are deeply concerned over latest hints that Malacañang is now willing to allow Estrada to fly to the United States and effectively escape his plunder cases here.

We condemn President Macapagal for abetting a devious political scheme against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in favor of the powerful man who could offer millions in campaign funds for her reelection bid in May 2004. We view the current Davide impeachment crisis as a result of a "sweetheart deal" between GMA and Cojuangco whose motives and maneuvers are self-serving. Indeed, Sen. Joker Arroyo's view linking GMA to the Cojuangco-engineered impeachment case is a cause for outrage for every Filipino who has a sense of decency.

We therefore challenge Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Senator Arroyo and all honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to immediately withdraw their support to the corrupt and treacherous Macapagal administration. It is high time that the most influential leaders of People Power I and II reunite to lead the Filipino people in the battle against massive corruption of GMA, her Jose Pidal husband and unpunished plunderers like Cojuangco. We join all concerned Filipinos in demanding truth and justice in the series of corruption scandals involving the highest public officials in the Macapagal administration. We reiterate our call for thoroughgoing investigation on the Pidal accounts, Piatco scam, Mindanao bombings and other corruption scandals involving GMA, her husband and closest Malacañang officials.

Indeed, it is outrageous that GMA can be compassionate toward the Estradas and Marcos cronies like Cojuangco while she lacks compassion for the poor innocent Muslims who are now unjustly detained while Gen. Angelo Reyes and co-accused in the series of Mindanao bombings remain untouchables in high government positions.

We lament that the Macapagal administration totally lacks compassion in the case of Donato Continente, the seven Mamburao farmers and other political detainees who are supposed to be released as part of confidence-building steps in the government's formal peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front. GMA's political ambition in 2004 obviously drives her to deal with plunderers even if it means forgetting the most urgent human rights cases that require her utmost compassion.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM, spokesperson, Promotion of Church People's Response, 879 Edsa, QC

Justice for Dacer

IT has been three years since our father, Bubby Dacer and his driver, Awel Corbito, were abducted and brutally murdered. The senseless crime continues to cause extreme grief and anguish to all of us. Mustering all our courage and harnessing all our strength, we have all struggled to move on, but the lack of decisive and prompt governmental action in resolving the case is an injustice that is hard for us to bear. Our faith in Divine Providence has helped us reconcile ourselves with our tragic loss but we cannot and will not accept the incompetence, ineffectiveness and inefficiency of the criminal justice system. For how else can you describe this situation where three years after the barbaric killing of Dacer and Corbito, not a single person has been charged with this heinous crime? And wrose, crucial witnesses are fleeing the country, getting killed or disappearing? Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino left the country; Teofilo Viña was shot dead this year; and Glenn Dumlao is missing.

We have approached, discussed, pleaded with the authorities in Malacañang, the Department of Justice, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine National Police, the Commission on Human Rights, the Regional Trial Court of Manila and the Court of Appeals to move the case of Dacer and Corbito forward. All we got were promises, promises and more promises. Dacer's and Corbito's case have been pushed to the back burner and the wheels of justice have not only slowed down but have stopped moving completely.

We demand truth and justice for Dacer and Corbito and all victims of involuntary disappearances. We demand to know what the government is doing to fathom the truth behind the killing of our father and driver. We demand to know how far they have gone during the past three years in gathering evidence and firming up the case against the accused. We demand that the guilty, no matter who they are and where they are, be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

We demand truth and justice for Bubby Dacer and Awel Corbito!

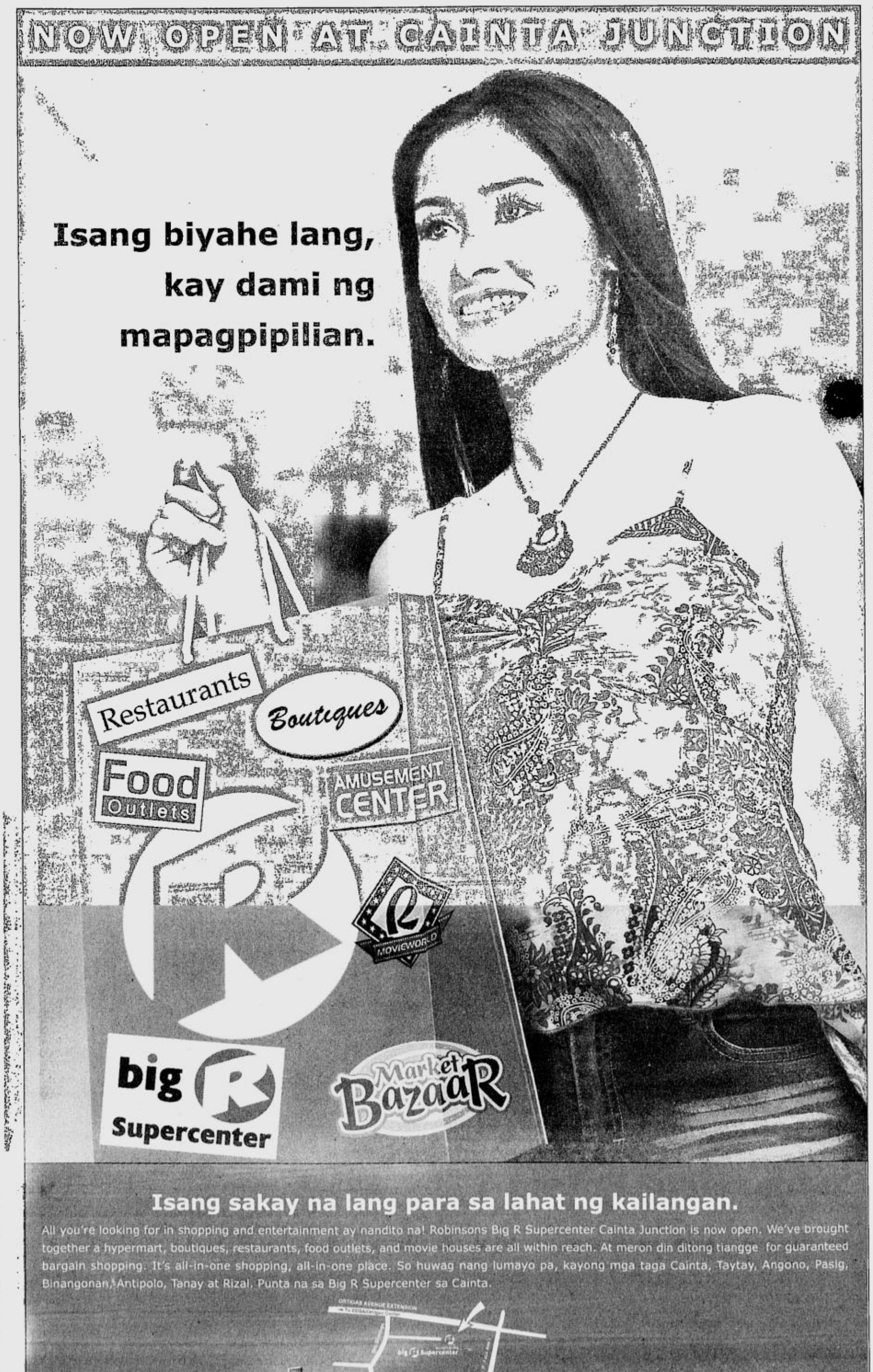
—EMILY DACER-HUNGERFORD, SABINA DACER, CHELEN REYES, CARINA DACER, AMPY DACER, BOBBY HENSON, DENISE GABRIELLE REYES,

Disservice to the elderly

GROUPS of older people trooped to the Senate recently to support the "Magna Carta for Older Persons" sponsored by Sen. Noli De Castro. Day after day they sat, silent and patiently waiting. The Magna Carta, after all, promised to be a new start, a bill of rights opening new possibilities for older people, especially those less advantaged in life.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara had to replace it with his dated and largely unworkable, patched-up Senior Citizens Act (there are cases in the Supreme Court between drug store owners and the BIR, the losers being the older people themselves). The bill slipped through a late session without a quorum. Why do the poor always have to suffer at the expense of grandstanding politicians?

—ED GERLOCK, Cubao, Quezon City



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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Plant office revamped over imports

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a major revamp at the Bureau of Plant Industry on Thursday to appease vegetable farmers, who accused the agency of defying her moratorium order on vegetable imports.

The President, during a meeting with vegetable farmers here, also announced the resignation of Blo Umpar Adiong, BPI director, who is under investigation for a series of import clearances that Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. had described as defective.

Lorenzo relayed Adiong's decision to Ms Macapagal before the Benguet vegetable summit started at the Benguet State University here. About 2,000 farmers, residents and government officials attended the summit.

Adiong, however, clarified in a telephone interview that his resignation would be effective only on Dec. 31 when he files his candidacy for congressman of Lanao del Sur.

He said his resignation was not in response to the revamp. "I want whatever investigations that are ongoing to proceed because I want to clear myself," he said.

Adiong said his appointment to the BPI was dictated by the 1995 peace treaty between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front. Adiong was a former MNLF official.

Lorenzo and various farmers groups in Benguet and Mt. Province blamed BPI for the increase in vegetable importation from Australia and China.

A trading group here said the imports had found their way to markets in Metro Manila and in Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal said a revamp and reorganization of the BPI was the immediate solution to the farmers' gripes.

In a press conference in Baguio City, she said the BPI revamp was essential to end all speculations about her policy on vegetable imports.

Adiong said he had "recommended to Lorenzo that all import clearances, regardless of whether they cover fish, plants or animals, should be signed by the agriculture secretary."

"You cannot win in this office. You do not sign the import permit, the importers curse you; you sign the importation, the farmers curse you," he said.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas traced the farmers' woes to the Bureau of Customs' supposed inefficiency in applying new tariffs for vegetables.

Molintas said customs officials only collect between 7 and 20 percent from importers, instead of the mandatory 25-percent tax. This is evident in the invoice receipts obtained by farmers that reveal differences in the government's weekly collections, he said.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said she would campaign against the displacement of farmers from their traditional markets. ***Desiree Caluza, Nathan Alcantara and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Bookkeeper saves self from kidnapper after 8-hr ordeal in hills

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SUAL, Pangasinan—Prayers, presence of mind, cunning and skillful police work saved a 20-year-old bookkeeper from a kidnapper on Wednesday night.

Robelie Gacad, a bookkeeper in a local cooperative, recounted her eight-hour ordeal from the hands of her neighbor Roriel Abara.

She said Abara abducted her because "he said my family would give him even P1 million in exchange for my life."

This is her story:

At about 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Gacad was walking home when Abara, a village mate, grabbed her and pointed a gun at her. He told her to keep quiet as he led her to a hilly part of the town.

In the hills, he told her he meant business, and even fired the gun (police said that through her description, it was a .38 caliber) to show it was not a toy gun. He also said he would shoot her if she disobeyed him.

Chance

When it was already dark, Abara took her to the highway where they rode on a jeepney and got down at Barangay Tubuan in nearby Labrador town.

"He brought me to a small cottage (the police said it was cottage for rent near the beach) where an old man was introduced to her as his brother," Gacad said.

Abara told Gacad that he would ask her family for money in exchange for her release, while pointing the gun at her.

"I know that your family loves you and that they will be able to produce even P1 million if they know your life is in danger," Gacad quoted her abductor as telling her.

Gacad said she belonged to a poor family. Her father Rogelio is a farmer and her mother is a homemaker. But she has a rich aunt who is working in Japan. Gacad is said to be the pet niece of her aunt.

All the time trembling and very afraid, Gacad said she thought she would die but kept her presence of mind and prayed.

She reasoned with Abara and told him he could change for the better and God would understand him. Gacad is a Jehovah's Witness.

"He angrily shouted 'Huwag mo akong utuin,'" she said, but he later calmed down.

By this time, her parents and other members of her family had sought the help of the Sual police, which formed a team to search for Gacad.

Information

The team, led by Chief Insp. Ruperto Manuel, the town police chief, had received information about a girl who was led into one of the cottages for rent in Tubuan. The police surrounded the area.

Near midnight, Gacad feigned stomachache and asked to go to the comfort room located outside the cottage. The old man accompanied her.

While inside the room, Gacad heard people talking and asking for her. "So I pushed the old man and ran towards the (field)," she said.

She ran toward the waiting arms of her uncle and cried like a little girl.

"My intention was really to run. This was why I said I was having stomach trouble so they would let me out," Gacad said.

When Abara saw the police, he leaped from the window and sped away.

Korean firm to shelve coal plant without village nod

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BANATE, Iloilo—A Korean firm will shelve the construction of a $150-million coal-fired power plant in this town if it fails to get the approval of residents amid mounting opposition to the project.

"If we could not get the approval necessary in the process of getting the ECC (Environmental Compliance Certificate) we have no choice but to give up the project," said Samuel Piedad, consultant of the Korean Electric Power Corp. (Kepco).

He told the INQUIRER they would like to pursue the construction of the 100-megawatt plant in Barangay San Salvador in this coastal town, about 54 kilometers north of Iloilo City "as much as possible."

"We are hoping that after all our explanations the people, especially the oppositors, will be enlightened," said Piedad.

Piedad was among the speakers during the first of the series of public consultations initiated by the Iloilo provincial board on Wednesday at the Banate multipurpose gymnasium.

Around 3,000 residents attended the consultation where opponents and supporters of the project spoke before the provincial board.

The provincial board led by Vice Gov. Roberto Armada also conducted an ocular inspection of the 25-hectare site of the proposed project in San Salvador Village.

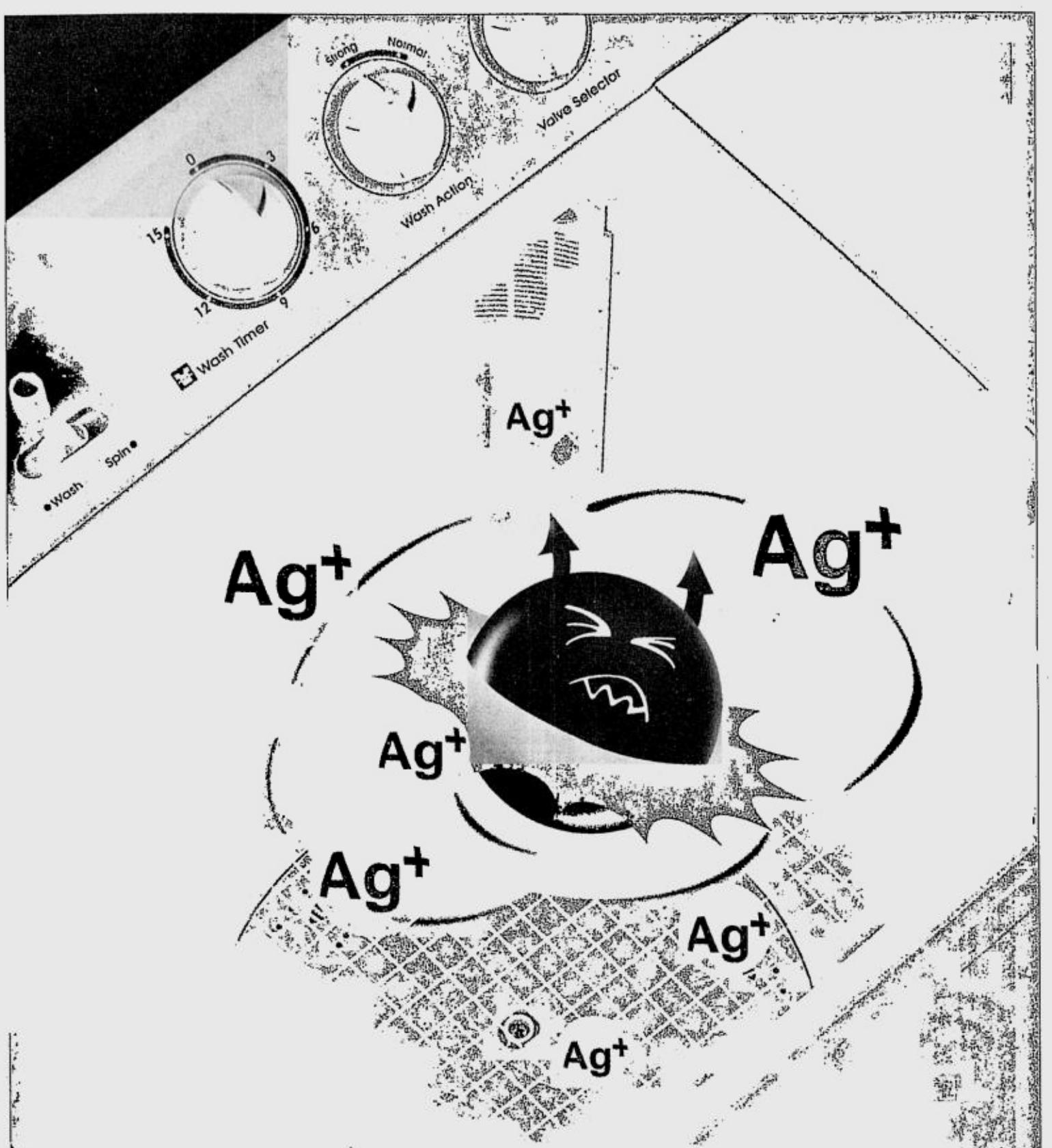
Kepco has signed a memorandum of understanding with the municipal government to conduct studies for the construction of the plant under a build-operate-own scheme. Despite widespread opposition from various sectors, Kepco claimed the plant was environmentally safe because it would utilize the Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC).

But opponents of the project led by the Banatenhon Against Coal-fired Plant and the People's Response for the Protection of the Environment (Protect) presented studies of coal plants in the Philippines and abroad, which had caused environmental damage especially to communities near the plants.

Bayan Muna Rep. Siegfred Deduro said he would author a resolution, seeking to scrap the project.

Deduro said the project would cause "incalculable damage" to the livelihood of the people and environment of the coastal towns of Northern Iloilo.

The project also faces opposition in the provincial board where at least four board members—Henry Anotado, Bienvenido Margarico, Romeo Palmares and Igmedio Prado—have declared their opposition to the plant.



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INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Empowering villagers the Army way

By Vicente S. Labro
Jiabong, Samar

THE CLASS that has been going on at the Malino Elementary School in Jiabong, Samar, was very much unlike ordinary grade schools.

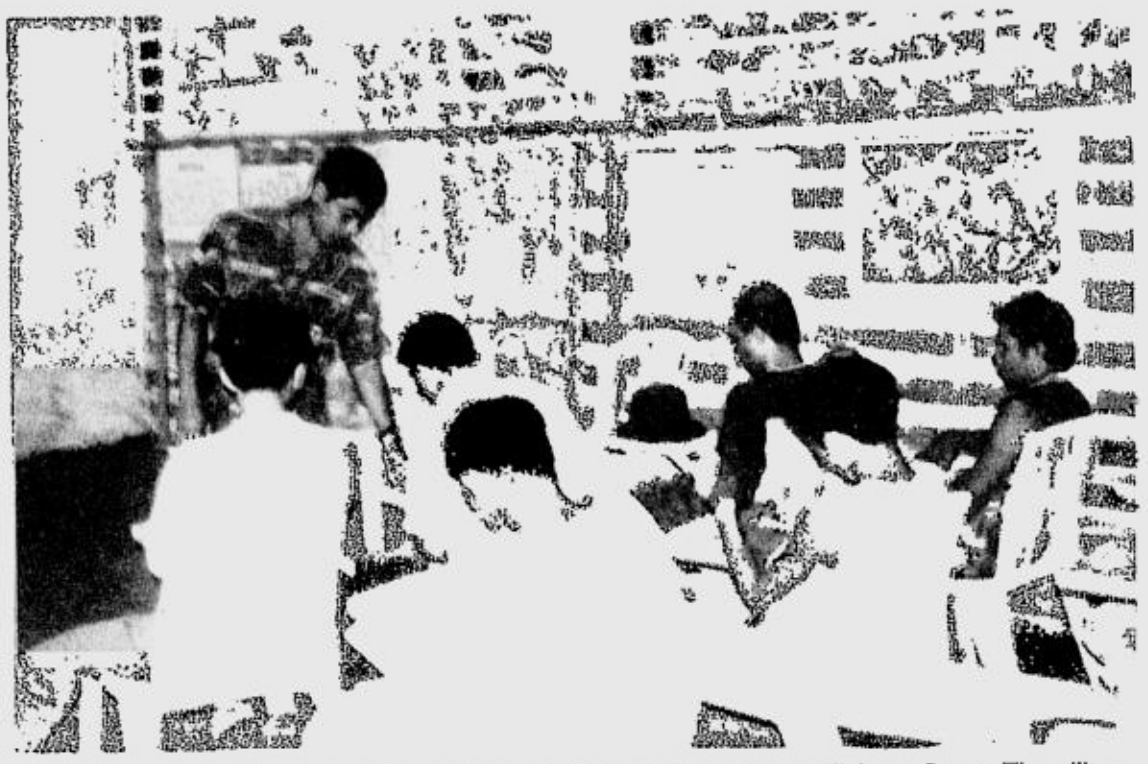
For one, the "pupils" are adults, whose ages range from 17 to 83. Their teacher is a soldier on active duty and classes are usually held on weekends.

The 28 students were illiterate residents of the village. Today, they all know how to read, write and solve simple math problems, aside from learning livelihood skills.

All of them thanked the Philippine Army for implementing a functional literacy program in Malino, an upland village 16 km from the town proper, for this changed their lives for the better.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, head of the Army's 8th Infantry Division, said the villagers were beneficiaries of the service command's ALPS (Army Literacy Patrol System) program, which is being implemented in coordination with the Department of Education and other concerned government agencies.

Under the program, Rabonza said, soldiers trained in nonformal education reach out to far-flung areas of the region and teach villagers basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills.



PFC. Wilson Cabias (standing) attends to his ALPS class at Barangay Malino, Jiabong, Samar. The military is undertaking some 20 ALPS classes in Leyte and Samar, according to Lt. Col. Romeo Velasco, chief of 8th ID's civil military operations. VICENTE LABRO

From warrior to teacher

Lt. Col. Romeo Velasco, chief of 8th ID's civil-military operations office, said the soldiers who undertook the ALPS program in Malino belonged to the 34th Infantry Battalion based in San Jorge town, some 65 km from the village.

Other Army battalions in the region are also implementing the program. One unit, the 52nd Infantry Battalion, holds classes at Barangay Lale in Pinabacdao, Samar.

Velasco said the ALPS seeks to reduce illiteracy, improve health and sanitation, and uplift the socioeconomic conditions of barangays through livelihood training of residents aged 15 years old and above.

Pfc. Wilson Cabias, one of the teacher-soldiers in Malino, said all his students, who had been deprived of formal education due to poverty, showed great interest to learn when the class began early this year. Among them were Mano Demetrio, the eldest at 83, and Macoy, the youngest at 17.

Cabias has been teaching since 1999 shortly after he underwent nonformal education classes conducted by DepEd personnel.

It has not been easy handling adult classes, Cabias said. He recalled that the first time he handled a class, some of the students were wisecracks. But the students, he added, usually became interested with the lesson if it was explained to them slowly and clearly.

Cabias, 26, said that before he was assigned to Malino, he had already handled ALPS classes in several barangays in Gandara, Matuguinao and Sta. Margarita towns and in Calbayog City, all in Samar.

When implementing the program, Cabias is transformed from a soldier with combat training into a patient, understanding and gentle teacher.

He and the other members of the small group of soldiers assigned in the village seemed to have become "experts" in human relations and community development and "instant" members of the community, following its laws and respecting the culture and tradition of the place.

Showing off

One Saturday morning in late August, when Rabonza and other high-ranking military officers in the region visited Malino, the class of Cabias was having arithmetic exercises. The students were computing the cost of constructing a toilet after identifying the materials needed and their costs.

Those called to compute the cost of two of the materials appearing on the blackboard readily stood up and added the two-figure digits. When Macoy was called, he begged off. It appeared that he just wanted to show the visitors that he knew more because when he was again called when three-digit figures were to be added, he readily stood up and easily solved the problem.

It was a far cry from the young man who, before attending the ALPS class, did not know one from zero, and could not read or write.

"When they started, they really didn't know (how to read, write and compute)," beamed Malino barangay chair Liberato Godin, an ardent supporter of the program.

The ALPS, in cooperation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Administration (Tesda), also sponsored a livelihood skills training in the village. Several residents, who participated in the training on basic electricity, can now work as electricians.

The soldiers also helped in health and sanitation activities in the community, such as clearing and cleaning the surroundings, and putting up fences.

Elsie Errabo, 31, a mobile teacher under the DepEd's Non-Formal Education, cited the ALPS for teaching the students not only basic reading, writing and computation but also good values and livelihood skills.

To Rabonza, what was more important was that soldiers were providing services to the people, particularly those in the rural areas.

"They are our unsung heroes," he said of the people behind the implementation of ALPS.

A different place

Malino was very much a different place about a decade ago when communist rebels roamed the area, sowing fear and demanding food from the people. They even held their group's founding anniversary in the village in the late 1980s and fired guns in the air, recalled village councilor Elizabeth Papua.

Development has been slow but Malino would soon be accessible. An all-weather road to nearby Barangay Jiabong's interior communities, passing through Malino, is expected to be built soon.

When the Army officials visited Malino, schoolteacher Viriginia Godin, the village chief's wife, along with Errabo, presented to Rabonza one of the pressing needs of the community—a barangay health center. She said the sick in the village still have to go to Jiabong or Catbalogan for treatment.

Before leaving Malino, the general assured them that the Army would build the health center and look into the possibility of holding a livelihood training on soap making, which was also requested by many residents.

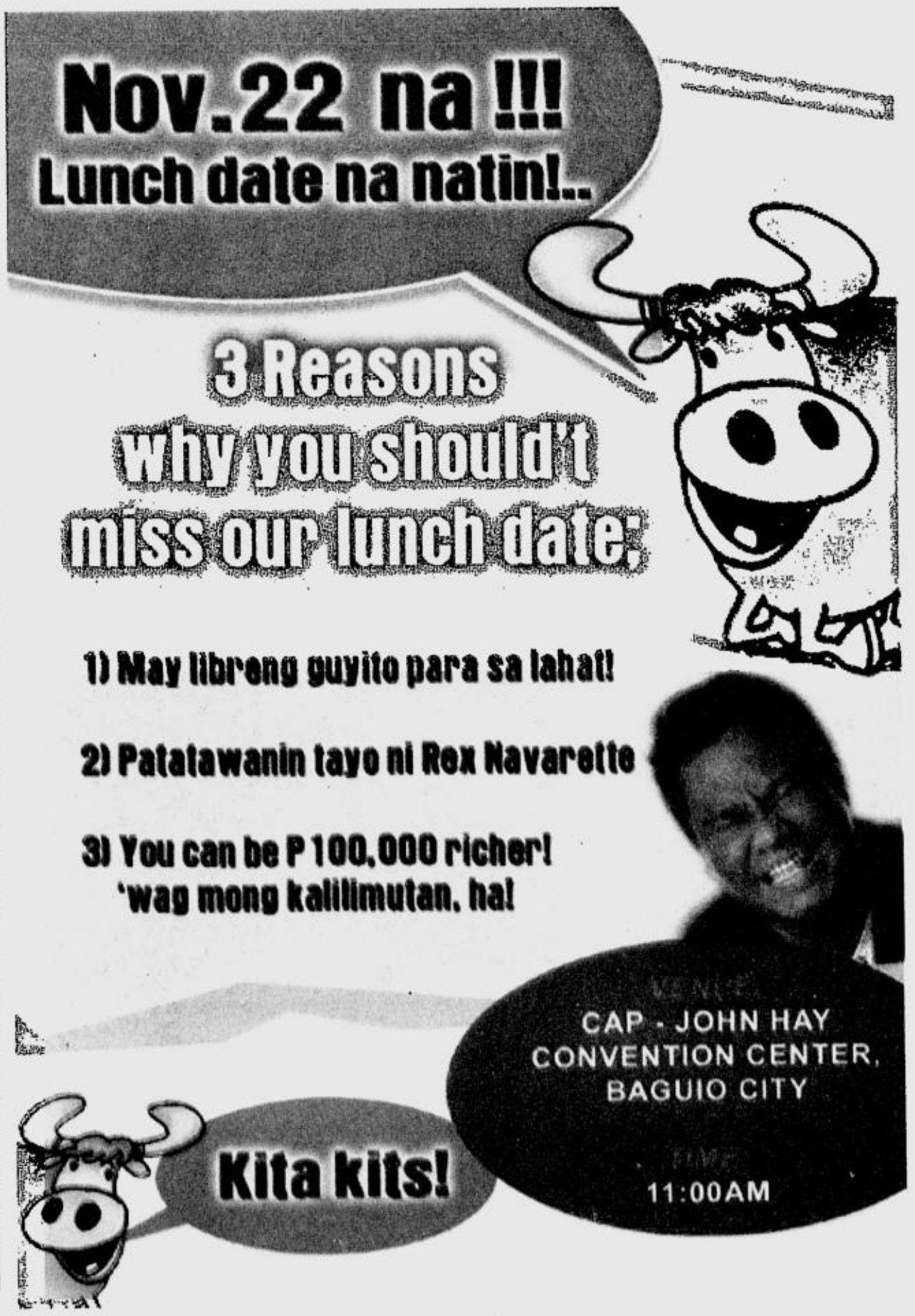
Earlier that day, Rabonza promised that the Army would donate a sewing machine to the ALPS Community Reading and Livelihood Center in nearby Barangay Lulugayan. The women of Lulugayan, who had just completed their training on basic garments making under the ALPS program that was conducted by Tesda, requested for an additional sewing machine.

In Lulugayan, barangay chair Noli Lagbo had high praises for the military, particularly the soldiers and their superiors who were behind the implementation of ALPS in their village.

Lagbo, 30, said that through the assistance of the soldiers, they were able to effectively implement projects like the clean-and-green campaign, beautification drive, maintenance of peace and order, and the establishment of a village reading and livelihood center through community involvement.

Thirty seven residents of Lulugayan had so far completed ALPS' functional literacy program and the basic garments making training.

One of the more empowering rewards for the ALPS graduates is that they can now vote during elections because they have learned how to read and write, Lagbo said.



PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS MARKS

59TH ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS

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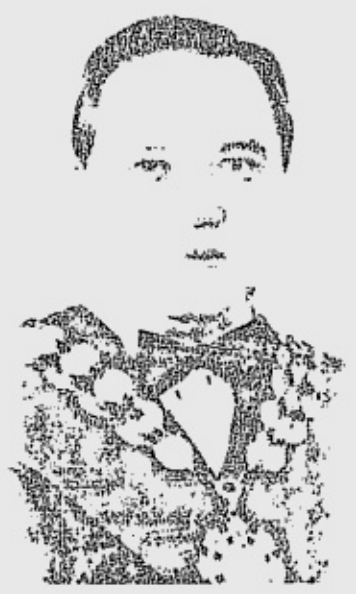

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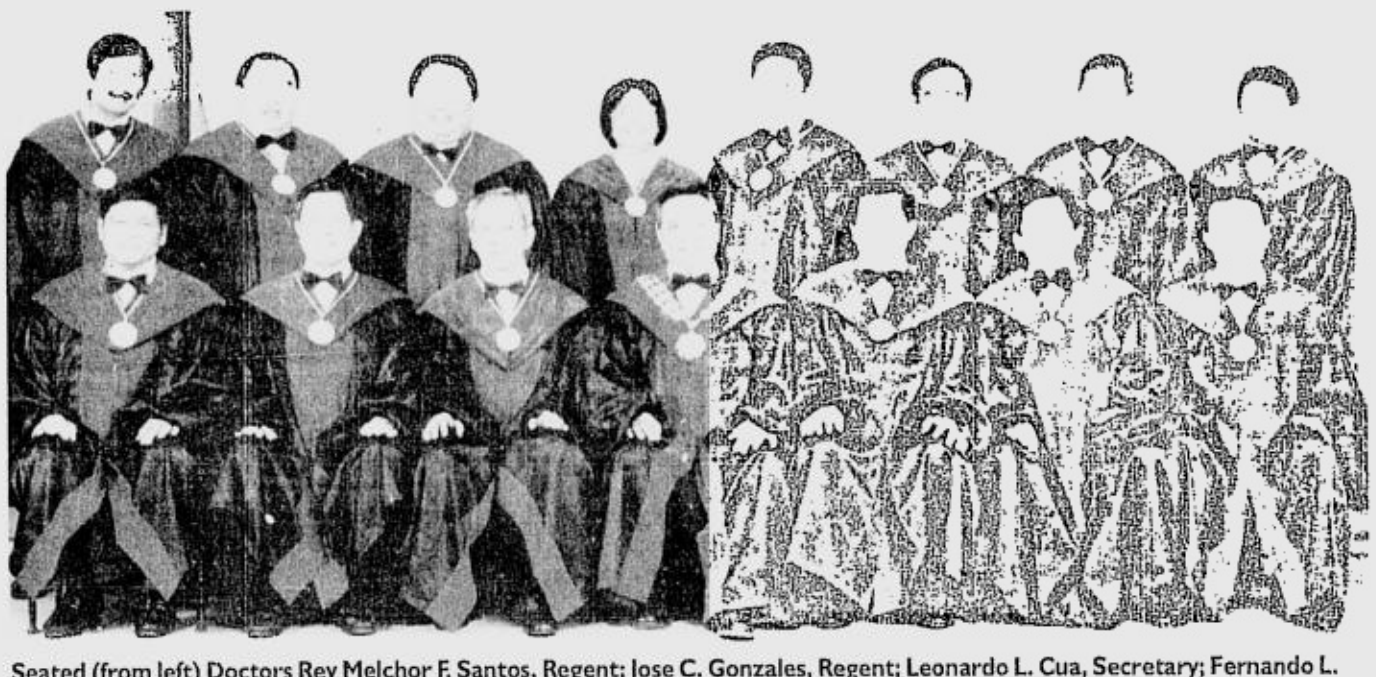

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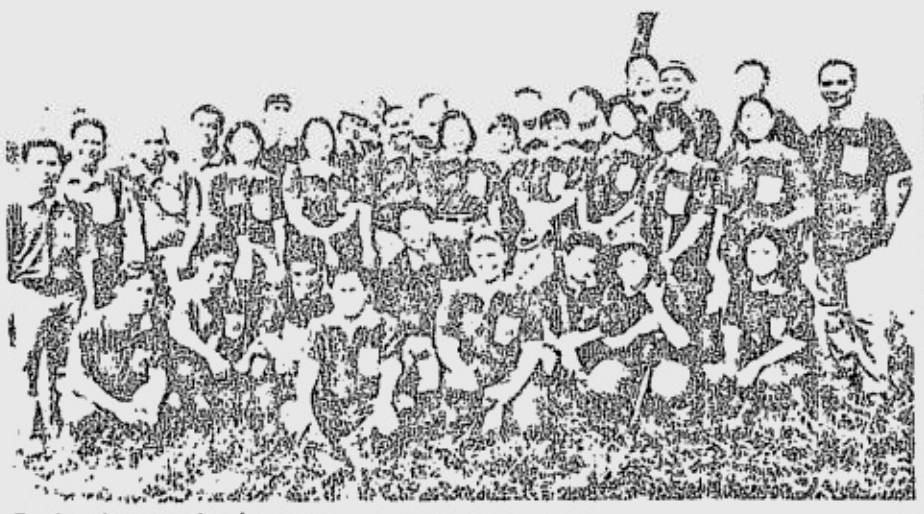

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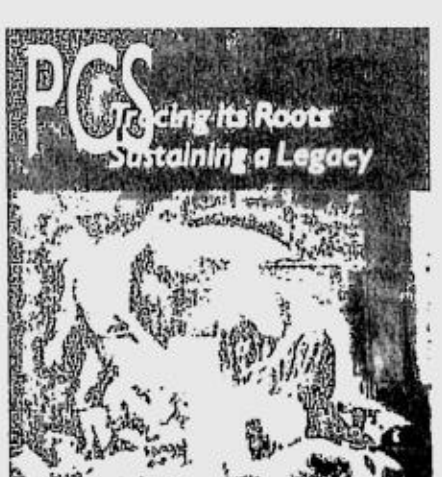
> The impression that the College of Surgeons is a school must be rectified. The College is an agglomeration of the cream of Filipino trained surgeons enrolled together by their quinessential dream of giving the nation the best of surgical knowledge and care.



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Massive protest for Sy funeral Sunday

From page A1

Against Crime.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered drastic action against the kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said: "I am ordering the authorities to give no quarter to armed kidnap suspects that resist arrest. We have accounted for the top kidnap gang in the country and we are going down on the five remaining most notorious syndicates."

The President has taken a tough stance against kidnappers in response to growing concerns on the rise of kidnappings this year despite previous anti-kidnap campaigns.

Still no to death penalty

She remained steadfast in her decision, however, not to implement the death penalty, saying it would not necessarily solve the problem.

Ms Macapagal praised the police action which brought down Chinese-Filipino physician Roberto Yap, the alleged leader of the Obeles-Yap kidnap gang.

"I salute the gallantry and resolve of the police team that fought it out with the heavily armed kidnap gang in Bataan," said the President, who also took note of the gallantry of police officer PO1 Joselito Esguerra of the Angeles City Police who died during the shoot-out. "He exemplifies the tenacity with which we must fight this menace."

The President also assured the public, especially the Chinese-Filipino community, that the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) headed by Secretary Angelo Reyes would be "fully committed and relentless" in its efforts to contain the kidnapping menace.

Fall guys?

But did the authorities get the right suspects in the Sy kidnap-slay?

At least 10 Cavite residents stormed Naktaf headquarters in Camp Crame, claiming that two of the six suspects the group had arrested were "fall guys."

Adela Campos, former subdivision president in Trece Martirez, said suspects Ramon Timol and Ernesto Palla had no hand in the abduction and murder of the Coca-Cola executive in Quezon City last Monday.

"We are one with President Macapagal-Arroyo in arresting the bad guys," she told reporters in Filipino at the Naktaf gate. "But she should not allow innocent people to be imprisoned."

If there were people who should be punished for the crime, Campos said they should be Timol's daughter, Edith Acelar, and her friend who was identified only as Babes.

2 women

Police had earlier identified the two women as the ones who had received the group that kidnapped Sy and helped in wrapping the victim's body in the house Babes was renting.

Campos said Babes probably offered Acelar, a former real estate agent, a hefty amount of money to join her kidnap-for-ransom syndicate. She said Acelar's husband Ramon is a seaman who has been abroad since last year.

As for Timol and Palla, the residents claimed that the two kept a low profile in the neighborhood. Timol had been serving as caretaker of his daughter's house on nearby Lot 18 while Palla was an "ordinary young man who usually played basketball in the neighborhood."

Timol, in fact, hardly went outside the house and was content with tending to his roosters and two dogs.

But no less than Romeo Vallano had identified Timol and Palla as members of his Waray kidnap-for-ransom gang. Vallano had earlier turned himself in and admitted that he had driven Sy to the group's Cavite safehouse.

Later in the interview, Campos admitted that another resident, a certain Miriam Cruz, had seen the group's Toyota Tamaraw FX enter the narrow lane leading to the safehouse where Sy's body was wrapped in a blanket and plastic garbage bags last Monday.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Naktaf spokesperson, invited Campos to his office to hear her complaint.

Main issues

For Chinese-Filipino traders, the rash of kidnappings is seen as one of the "main issues" contributing to the decline in investments.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee said the Sy case was a very serious incident apparently meant to test the mettle of new anti-kidnap czar Angelo Reyes.

A group of recruitment agencies which deploy workers to Taiwan yesterday urged the President to lift the moratorium on death penalty executions.

Jackson Gan, president of the Pilipino Manpower Agencies Accredited to Taiwan, or Pilmat, said in a statement that the increase in kidnap incidents has "mortified" Binondo residents and warned Malacañang that most of them were thinking of supporting a presidential candidate who would not be afraid to take a hard-line stance against all forms of crime.

Investors back out

Gan, who is also the spokesperson of the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters, said some prospective Taiwanese investors backed out of a plan to set up a manufacturing and investment venture when told of the peace and order situation in the country.

"This year alone, almost $2 billion was invested by Formosa-based entrepreneurs in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and lowly Vietnam which is fast catching up with the Philippines in setting up a favorable investment climate," he said.

But the President said she had more faith in the "forceful and uncompromising implementation of criminal justice under Christian values."

Assess options

In her statement, Ms Macapagal said: "I appreciate the clamor for lifting the moratorium on the death penalty in the light of the senseless death of Betti Chua Sy but it is doubtful if this would effectively prevent such heinous crimes in the long run."

"The best way to deter crime is effective prevention, quick resolution and swift justice. We are working on a holistic approach that will depend on institutional effectiveness rather than terminal retribution," the President said.

The President, however, did not close the door on the issue. "We will continue to reassess our options in consultation with the leaders of Congress and I will take my cue from them," she said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Gil Cabacungan Jr., Martin Marfil, AFP*

Chinoy girl snatched; driver, nanny shot

From page A1

armed Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted 43-year-old businessman Ramon Inoferio from his house in Jolo town at around 6 p.m.

A ranking official of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team yesterday said that the Naktaf was taking the rash of kidnap cases as a "declaration of war" by kidnap syndicates.

"They're really testing our patience," he told the INQUIRER.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong also raised the possibility that the Dy abduction, coming only four days after the botched Betti Chua Sy kidnapping, was not a mere kidnap-for-ransom act. "That's not the way KFR groups operate. KFR groups are discreet," he said, noting that the suspects' shoot-em-up behavior was too attention-getting and antagonistic.

Dy's abduction eclipsed the Naktaf's break-up of the notorious Obeles kidnap-for-ransom gang during a shoot-out in Dinalupihan, Bataan the other day.

The Philippine National Police had described the death of doctor Roberto Yap and the fall of his Obeles gang as the "crowning glory" in the government's renewed campaign against kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

In front of school

Insp. Romeo Ricalde said Dy and her nanny were about to get off their maroon Honda Civic, which had stopped in front of the school at the corner of Quirino Avenue Extension and Zulueta Street, when the three suspects approached.

A witness said the suspects carried a baby Armalite and a 9-mm pistol and a .45 cal. pistol. They were already wearing bonnets when they got down from their vehicle.

One of the suspects yanked the door on the driver's side open and, seeing Responso attempt to resist, shot him in the left side of the face. The bullet exited below his right ear. An investigator who refused to be named said it was the female suspect who shot the driver.

After Responso was shot, another suspect went to the other side, yanked the door open and tried to grab the girl, a witness told the INQUIRER. However, the petite De Dios shielded the girl with her body, prompting the suspect to shoot the nanny in the back. Although wounded, however, the nanny tried to hold on to her ward.

"Even if she was already bleeding, she did not want to let go of the girl, which is why the kidnapper kicked her," said the witness, an old man who carried De Dios to a car that brought her to the hospital, said in Filipino.

Dy was then dragged to a waiting vehicle.

As this was taking place, the third suspect opened the two other doors of the car and pointed his firearm at the witnesses.

Another witness, a longtime resident in the area, said that before the suspects fled the scene, one of them fired several rounds from a baby Armalite into the air to scare off the witnesses.

"P----ina niyo, walang lalapit! (Don't come near us)!" the witness quoted one of the male suspects as shouting.

The suspects then sped off, turning right on Quirino Avenue before proceeding to the South Superhighway.

There were conflicting reports about the suspects' getaway car, which was a dark-colored sports utility vehicle.

Death penalty

In a press statement, presidential aspirant and former PNP chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the only way to stop the rash of kidnappings was to strictly implement the death penalty. "The government must send a strong signal to the kidnappers and drug dealers that it is dead serious and ready to apply the full force of the law in combating kidnapping and drug trafficking activities in the country."

He said the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force which he headed was successful in fighting kidnappers during his time because of the full support given to him by Malacañang.

"Kung ako ang presidente, sasampulan ko ang mga kidnappers at drug lords na nakapila sa lethal injection. Tignan lang natin kung hindi sila matakot kung araw-araw, liban na lang kung araw ng Linggo, at may bibitayin (If I were President, I would make examples of the kidnappers and drug lords awaiting lethal injection. Let's see if they won't be struck by fear, if we execute someone every day, except Sundays)."

Bulaong placed the whole of Manila under full alert. He said the case would be handled by Pacer and Naktaf, although the WPD would assist in the investigation.

Another abduction was supposed to have taken place the other day in Chinatown in Manila, but Servando said it was not reported to the Naktaf.

Servando refused to "speculate" if the Paco incident was connected to previous cases, particularly the Sy kidnap-slay.

Ricalde said the Civic had been dusted for fingerprints, and results are pending.

Police found the ID card of a certain policeman surnamed Geneblazo inside the car. A "Manila Police" sticker and a "Manila's Finest" sticker were posted on the car's windshield. Ricalde said the ID belonged to a friend of the victim's family.

After the kidnapping, all that was left in the car were the victim's blue schoolbag, which was taken by police, a blue comb with three broken teeth, a maroon scrunchie, a blue water jug and a pair of black slippers. A pool of blood was also seen in the shallow compartment behind the gear stick. Bloodstains also dotted the vehicle's green upholstery.

Mindanao too

Two ice plant workers were nabbed after the body of their employer, whom they allegedly abducted and stabbed to death, was found in the trunk of the car they were riding in Tacurong City.

Al-Amir Samad and Norodim Jama, workers of the Albanja ice plant in Maasim, Sarangani, were flagged down on the highway at around 9 p.m. While inspecting the car, the operatives, who had been alerted about a kidnapping incident, found the body of Bernardo Diaz, ice plant manager, who bore several stab wounds.

In Jolo, the businessman Inoferio was abducted by Abu Sayyaf bandits when he was about to enter his house.

Chief Supt. Isnaji Bantala, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the police suspect that the bandits took the victim to Barangay Umangay in Patikul town. The village is a known lair of the Abu Sayyaf.

Meanwhile, charges of murder, multiple physical injuries and illegal possession of firearms have been filed against the two suspected members of the Obeles Yap gang who survived the clash on Thursday. *With reports from TJ Burgonio; Julie S. Alipala and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP, AP*

Camacho resigns; peso hits record low

From page A1

choose between him and Garcia. "I don't see myself that low.

Claiming he is physically, emotionally, and financially spent in serving the government, Camacho yesterday submitted his irrevocable letter of resignation to the President effective Nov. 30.

Politics

"Between now and the end of the term, politics is going to take center stage. I do not have to participate in that. It is time to move on," he said during a hastily-called press conference yesterday.

"I feel very relieved and am looking forward to going back to my private life," he told reporters.

Camacho was the country manager of Deutsche Bank before he joined the government first as Energy secretary in March 2001 and as Finance chief in June of that same year.

The President accepted the resignation of Camacho and tapped Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong, the most senior finance official, as officer-in-charge.

Other resignations

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said he would also resign effective at the end of the month.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said would leave his post by January. "I told him (Camacho) in September that I am only good until the end of the year. I could stay until January."

Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said he would have to think it over seriously whether to stay or not while Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said he was staying, for now.

Bernardo had been with Camacho since his stint at the Department of Energy while Parayno was personally convinced by Camacho to accept the post of BIR commissioner.

Camacho also personally convinced Social Security System president Corazon dela Paz to accept the job.

Hit hard

The announcement of Camacho's resignation came after the stock market closed at noon, but peso trading, which runs until 4 p.m., was hit hard.

Traders said many banks bought up the dollar on concern Camacho's move could hurt the government's efforts to restore fiscal discipline.

The peso closed at a record low of P55.585 on the Philippine Dealing System after finishing at P55.290 Thursday. Volume rose to $175.5 million from $94.5 million Thursday.

The last time the peso hit an all-time closing low was on Oct. 27 this year when it closed at P55.50. The peso dropped to a historic low of P55.75 on Jan. 17, 2001 at the height of the Edsa People Power II.

Sterling service

In a statement, Malacañang said the President and the Cabinet expressed their deepest gratitude and highest esteem for the three years of sterling service that Camacho has rendered to the nation first as secretary of energy from March to June 2001 and as secretary of finance.

Malacanang said Camacho was instrumental in advancing the President's good governance and reform agenda while pushing for major reforms in public finance.

For his part, Camacho thanked the President for her trust and confidence. "I had a very good working relationship with the President. But it is really time to go," Camacho said.

Camacho said Friday he wanted to resign earlier but deferred it because the country was still reeling from the impact of the failed July 27 mutiny. He waited until the economy was more stable, he said.

He said he personally was not spared from controversies that have hounded the Macapagal administration.

Too many lies

"All the lies and all the things that you hear and you read about ... I mean, there are just too many of them," Camacho said.

Camacho said he believes he had filled his role as finance chief and helped build a foundation for fiscal strength and improved revenues, and instituted measures to fight corruption.

Malacanang said that Camacho had tendered his resignation last June.

Rumors of Camacho's resignation in the past had spooked both the currency and the stock markets.

Negative effect

"I'm sure there will be at the very least a temporary negative effect," on business sentiment, said Sergio Ortiz-Luis, chairman of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said Camacho had lent a face of credibility to the Philippine government in the global capital markets, and "the financing community here and abroad will be watching" who Ms Macapagal will name as replacement.

Traders said they expect the local stock market to be affected when it resumes trading on Monday.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc, said : "It will make the market nervous. The effect shall be negative until they find a good replacement. If the replacement has the same credibility with foreign brokers, it will be okay."

Astro del Castillo, director of Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said the full impact of his resignation will be felt next week. "It will surely dampen sentiment in the financial and capital markets."

Sad day

"It's a sad day for us. The possible lull in his reforms and programs is our biggest concern," Del Castillo said.

Businessmen were surprised by Camacho's resignation even though the former investment banker had hinted of leaving his post a few months ago.

Industrialist Raul T. Concepcion said Camacho's resignation was a "complete shock" to businessmen because it was totally unexpected and it came at such a brief notice.

"He is well respected by the financial community here and abroad. It happened so fast that the lack of adequate turnover could create undue anxiety in the community and a dampening effect on the foreign exchange rate," Concepcion said.

One of the best

"We hope he can reconsider, he is one of the best finance secretaries this country ever had," said Francis Chua, executive vice president of Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee said Camacho's resignation was "unfortunate." "What is important now is to appoint his replacement as soon as possible in order to avoid speculation and to stabilize the markets."

Camacho resigned amid market jitters over the widening budget deficit ahead of the May 2004 elections.

Surprised

"We are going to lose a credible and very competent public servant," said Wick Veloso, deputy treasurer of HSBC.

Federation of Philippine Industries president Jesus Arranza said he was surprised by Camacho's resignation, having talked to him only on Wednesday where his group discussed reforms in anti-smuggling policies. Arranza said Camacho has been a good ally in the fight against smuggling.

Former Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia said: "It is unfortunate that government is losing the services of a competent professional who has integrity and patriotism. However, I understand his reasons."

He noted that the resignation would temporarily create investor uncertainty, which was already indicated by the movement of the peso against the greenback and the widening of spreads of Philippine sovereign bonds yesterday.

"His professionalism and selfless dedication are admirable and will be missed," Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez said.

Impossible job

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel believes that the financial markets would be indifferent to his resignation because investors "know he has an almost impossible job, especially in an election year when probably he does not have control on the expenditure side."

Sources from Malacanang said Camacho quit his post due to increasing pressure to keep the budget deficit within the programmed ceiling of P200 billion and worsening feud with Congress which has sat on critical revenue enhancing bills such as the indexation of cigarette and alcohol taxes.

In a forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines in August, Camacho lamented that political turmoil had been pushing down the value of the Philippine peso and dampening the economy.

The peso has been battered since a coup attempt by mutinous troops in July and allegations of corruption and money laundering made by an opposition senator against Ms Macapagal's husband.

"The challenge for us in government," Camacho said then, "is to constantly try to refocus the attention of everybody, particularly the business sector, the financial markets and our public on the more fundamental issues, on what's going on in their lives ... and try to minimize the political noise that is so loud these days."

As the Cabinet officer in charge of the government's fiscal health, Camacho had struggled to reform the corruption-ridden internal revenue and customs bureaus, the government's main tax collection agencies.

Fiscal discipline

Camacho was also responsible for the enactment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, the rationalization of the excise tax on automobiles, and the impending passage of the rationalization of documentary stamp tax.

But Camacho leaves after restoring fiscal discipline in the national budget, which overshot the official deficit target last year, amid weak revenue inflows.

The January-October fiscal deficit stands at P163.88 billion, or 4.7 percent below the limit, the finance department said on Wednesday.

The government believes it will be able to keep the deficit within the full-year target ceiling of P202 billion. *With AP, AFP reports*

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Ricky Reyes nephew gunned down in Manila robbery

By Leila B. Salaverria

ASSURANCES of tightened security in Manila appeared more like mere press releases by the city government and the Western Police District after a nephew of celebrated beauty stylist Ricky Reyes was shot dead by robbers Thursday night.

Christopher Reyes, a son of the celebrity's youngest brother Les, was reportedly gunned down after he refused to hand over his Nokia 3650 to three bandits.

Investigation showed that 20-year-old Christopher was with a friend Marvin Luke del Castillo and was on his way home to New Manila, Quezon City, when he stopped at a red light at the corner of Quirino Avenue and the South Super Highway at about 7:30 p.m.

Christopher, whose family owns the Reyes Haircutters franchise, had just come from the College of St. Benilde, where he was studying computer applications.

According to SPO4 Alfredo Salazar, three men walked up to the gold Honda CRV (WHA 589) of Christopher and demanded that he hand over his cellphone.

Salazar said Christopher's window was rolled down at that time because he was smoking.

One of the suspects reportedly tried to reach for the student's phone but Christopher pushed his hand away.

The victim was trying to ward off the suspect when one of the men pulled out a .38-caliber revolver and shot Christopher twice, hitting the victim in the left armpit and the left upper arm.

The suspects then fled without taking the victim's phone.

After the incident, the police arrested Roberto Vargas, 31, whom barangay security men identified as one of those who approached the victim.

The village watchmen, who were near the crime scene at the time of the robbery, also identified the two other suspects as brothers Jomar and Jeffrey Renamantao. Both are still at large.

MAKATI CRAWLER Employees Saba Candasua (left) and William Casipit hold up the 15-foot python which they found on a vacant lot beside the Sunvar Plaza on Amorsolo Street, Makati City. The serpent will be turned over to the Manila Zoo, according to the snake catchers. ROGER CARPIO

NCRPO fails to stop crime

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) had been helpless in preventing high profile crimes in Metro Manila which happened amid supposedly tighter security ordered by Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco.

Sought for comment on the kidnappings of Betty Sy Chua and that of a 10-year-old girl in Manila, all NCRPO spokesperson Cesar Binag could say was they "remained on heightened alert."

As early as September, the NCRPO headed by Velasco has been expecting a rise in criminality but have apparently been unable to prevent the high-profile crimes from happening.

On Monday, kidnappers abducted Coke executive Betty Sy Chua and later dumped her dead along the President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue.

Two days ago, robbers shot and killed a nephew of beauty stylist Ricky Reyes in Manila.

Yesterday morning, a pupil of a Chinese school was abducted in Paco, also in Manila. Their family driver and maid were shot by the suspects.

Stung by the spate of criminality, Northern Police District director Marcelino Franco said they would intensify police visibility especially in exclusive schools within their area.

In Caloocan City, police chief Benjardi Mantele told the INQUIRER yesterday they had increased their police patrols by deploying all available patrol cars and motorcycles.

He also ordered the mobile teams to drop by schools and coordinate with the schools' security officers. There are two exclusive Filipino-Chinese schools in Caloocan.

Aside from the uniformed policemen, Mantele said he had also been deploying policemen in civilian clothes in schools and even banks.

NCRPO Regional Directorial Staff chief Ernesto Belen said they were tapping school security guards and barangay watchmen to augment the 17,000-police force in the metropolis.

Television reports also said several exclusive Chinese schools in Manila City had implemented stricter security measures for their students such as hiring additional security guards.

Meanwhile, Franco advised the rich to be cautious about their environment and monitor if someone is following them.

He added that potential targets of kidnappers should also develop flexible schedules to confuse kidnappers.

For instance, if there are several routes to their house, residents should use different routes every day so as not to establish any pattern which might make it easier for kidnappers to strike.

However, he called on the public not to panic, adding that authorities had been going after kidnap syndicates.

Chinoy trader killed in Binondo

A CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman yesterday was gunned down in Binondo when he tried to fight off robbers who wanted to grab his bag, which reportedly contained P2 million.

Jian-Sheng Chen, 51, a resident of C.M. Recto Street, died of a single gunshot wound in the chest. Barangay security man Romeo Balmore, 25, went to the victim's aid. But he too was shot and wounded by the suspects, said SP04 Solomon Bataller.

Investigators said two armed men approached Chen on Santo Cristo Street in front of Unity Trading at 11:45 a.m., grabbed the victim by the shoulders and attempted to take his bag. Chen resisted and was killed on the spot.

Police sources said Chen had P2 million in his bag.

Bataller said the commotion attracted the attention of bystanders who shouted for help.

Balmore heard the cries and tried to follow the suspects on foot. But a third culprit saw Balmore following the robbers and shot the tanod in the chest.

The wounded tanod was taken to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital. *Leila Salaverria*

Angelo Reyes' persistence pays off

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

IN THE aftermath of the kidnap-murder of Betti Sy, two kidnapping syndicates were smashed in the last few days.

The first kidnap-for-ransom group, based in Cavite, was responsible for the abduction and murder of the young Coca-Cola executive. The second group, whose leader was killed in a firefight with the police, was based in Bataan.

Why did it have to take Betti Sy's kidnap-murder before authorities would go after kidnapping groups? Our law enforcers could have made a preemptive move against the syndicates, but they didn't.

* * *

Anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes can't rest on his laurels with the breaking up of the two kidnapping groups. There are many more groups to bust.

Yesterday, Gellina Dy, a student at St. Peter Academy in Paco, Manila, was abducted by unidentified armed men who shot dead her driver and wounded her yaya.

Reyes will have to work double time to catch or kill more kidnappers.

* * *

Because Reyes is former Armed Forces chief of staff, he has made use of soldiers to reinforce policemen going after kidnap-for-ransom groups.

Employing soldiers to do police work is not new. In the late 1960s, part of the Metropolitan Command (Metrocom), still very popular at the time, was made up of Marines and Army troopers. These soldiers reinforced the local police and the now defunct Philippine Constabulary (PC) troops.

The Metrocom was a well-disciplined unit. Its discipline deteriorated when the Marines and Army troopers were returned to their mother units.

* * *

The discipline, dedication and enthusiasm of Army troops and Marines in the anti-kidnapping task force might rub off on the jaded members of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

If General Reyes goes about his job with the intensity described by one of his subordinates at the anti-kidnapping task force, then kidnappers are in for very hard times. *Makulit daw si Reyes.*

Reyes' *kakulitan* **or hard-driving persistence will eventually pay off.**

* * *

The GMA-Noli de Castro tandem is almost a done deal, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo's political drumbeaters.

If there's one good trait about Kabayan Noli, it's that he knows his limitations as a politician. He may be a broadcaster par excellence, but he's still a political neophyte.

Noli should learn the ropes first before he thinks of running for the highest post.

* * *

It was just as well that the President backed out of the one-on-one debate with Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson scheduled for today.

Why should GMA stoop down to the level of a purveyor of gossip? *Pang-beauty parlor lang ang debate ni Pinky.*

Lacson uses his parliamentary immunity to expose his political enemy's womanizing when he himself is a womanizer—and worse.

* * *

A source within the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) told me the agency's campaign won't get off the ground no matter how dedicated its chief, retired police Gen. Anselmo Avenido, is.

Why? Because of people like Mabutas, Dumantay and Iglesia, according to the insider. He alleged that these people make milking cows of Chinese drug traffickers.

But the worse thing Mabutas, Dumantay and Iglesia do is tolerate the "planting" of drugs on innocent people by their men.

I know this guy Iglesia. He led a team that arrested last year several young Chinese men, accusing them of drug trafficking. But one of the young men could not have been involved in drug trafficking as he couldn't be relied upon because he is mentally retarded. One of the arresting officers had a twinge of guilt later and confessed that the arrest of the youth was a frame-up.

I wonder why Avenido trusts Iglesia despite being warned about Iglesia's notoriety in "planting" drugs.

* * *

My source also says the former police Capt. Rey Jaylo, appointed by the President to the PDEA, is useless not because he's incompetent but because he's not been given people to work under him.

The PDEA insider also takes a snipe at a female Manila assistant prosecutor who has been appointed judge. This female judge gave protection to a Tondo drug lord when she was still assistant prosecutor. She was carrying an affair with the drug lord whose alias is Ric Taga.

Ric Taga, according to my source, is also being protected by a Colonel Pedroso.

* * *

And now, on the lighter side.

One of the most intriguing collections of art in the country belongs to my banker friend, Chuckie Arellano.

According to well-known critic Manuel D. Duldulao, Chuckie's collection is so provocative in its content that he published a selection of the paintings in a book called Art Across the Philippines. The book exhibits the works of outstanding young Filipino artists.

Chuckie has a huge collection of nude paintings of famous women over which some of his friends salivate.

METROBRIEFS

Scam suspect nailed

AN OFFICIAL of the Tibayan Group Investment Co. Inc., wanted for fleecing investors of over P200 million, was arrested by National Bureau of Investigation agents in Antipolo yesterday. An NBI special task force under Marianito Panganiban caught Palmy Tibayan, 38, wife of TGICI chair Jesus Tibayan, in Cogeo Village, after a week of surveillance. No bail had been recommended for Tibayan. The TGICI is one of several pyramiding companies that allegedly defrauded thousands of members out of millions of pesos. *Leila Salaverria*

Awol cops sacked

THE NATIONAL Police Commission yesterday denied the appeal of 10 lawmen who were dismissed for grave misconduct and for incurring absences without official leave. The commission said that the appeal of the patrolmen—Augusto Cunanan, Eduardo Dumagat, Alexander Espiritu Santo, Mariano Castelo, Virgilio Villanueva, Antonio Patasin, Crisanto Alonso, Efren Rio, Milahan Mualim and Napoleon Micosa—had been denied because they filed the motion long after they were dismissed from service," said Jose Lina Jr., Napolcom chair. *Margaux Ortiz*

Firestarter hurt

ANDRES de Ocampo on Wednesday poured gasoline on the house of Teodoro Imus, opened the liquid petroleum gas tank in the victim's kitchen, and left the gas can in the house. De Ocampo, 68, then used a shotgun to shoot the gas can and was blown away when it exploded. Though he was badly burned, De Ocampo managed to escape, said SF03 Randy Resurreccion. Imus' family ran to the police just before De Ocampo set fire to their house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan. Police said De Ocampo and Imus were fighting over land. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Thousands get jobs

THOUSANDS of Las Piñas City residents have been hired by local businessmen over the past 10 months, according to Mayor Vergel Aguilar. He said that under the city's "Mamamayan Muna" program, Las Piñas companies should prioritize qualified residents in their job programs. Applicants are urged to give their resumes to the city's Public Employment Service Office, which conducts daily interviews with job seekers. *Margaux Ortiz*

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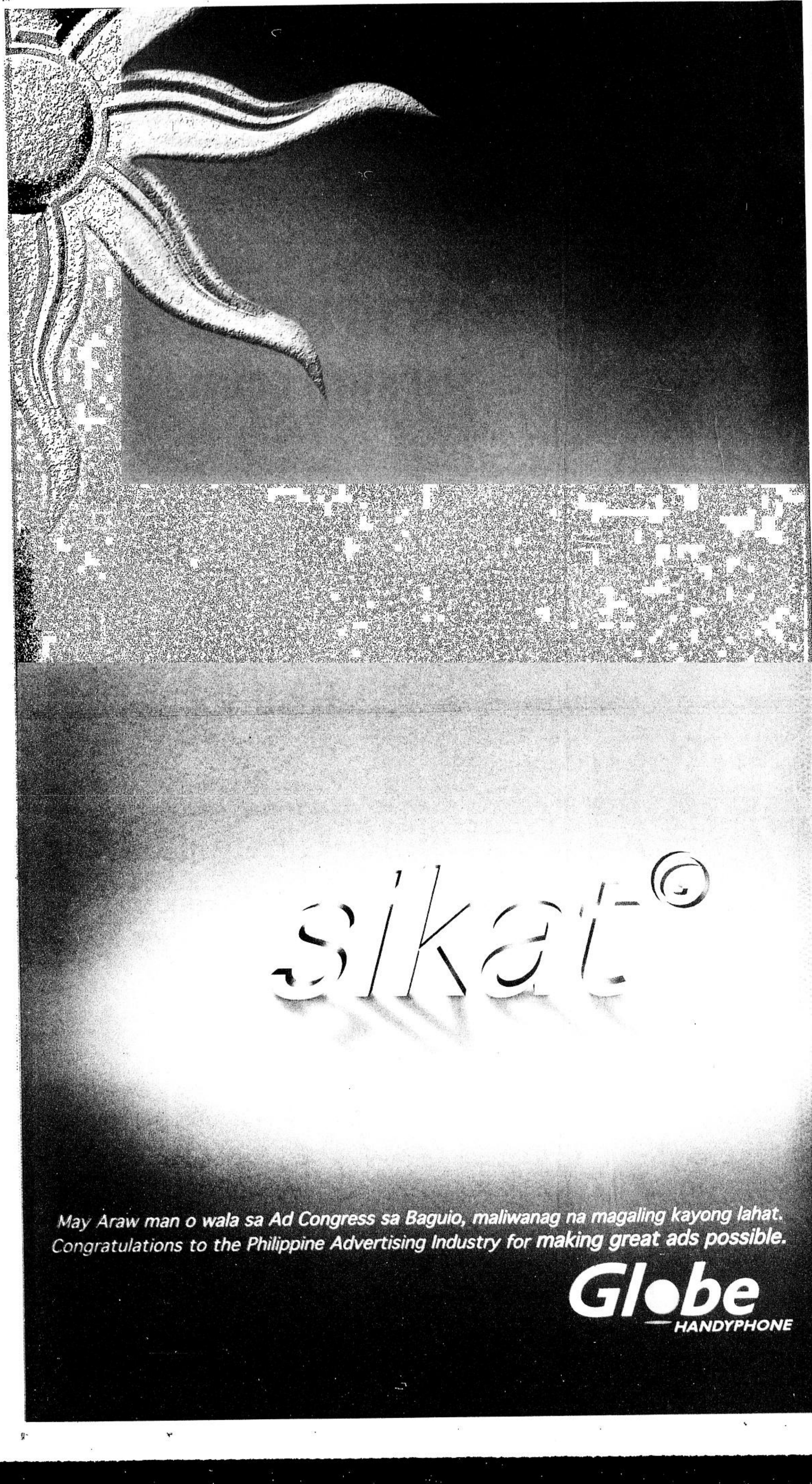
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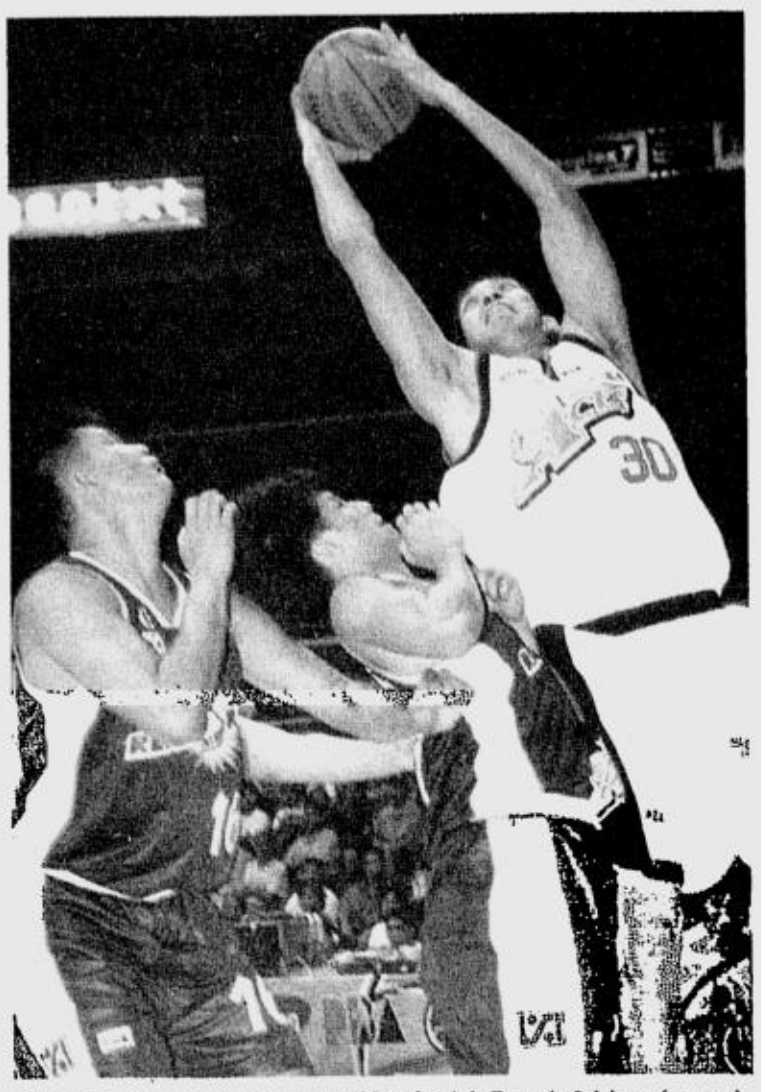
Realtors gain semis

Tutt, Aquino, Duremdes key Sta. Lucia escape act



DON Camaso of Alaska shoots off Sta. Lucia's Francis Adriano (center) and Dennis Espino in their tightly fought game last night. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

RAY Tutt came alive when Isaac Fontaine fouled out and Sta. Lucia Realty outlasted Alaska, 88-86, last night to reach the semifinals of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tutt grabbed an important offensive rebound and sank three free throws down the stretch from 83-all as the Realtors arranged a best-of-five semifinal duel with San Miguel Beer beginning Sunday.

"Ray told me he doesn't want to go home yet and he lived up to his promise," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua.

Kenneth Duremdes, however, was the happiest Realtor of them all.

The 1998 MVP not only got back at the team which traded him to Sta. Lucia at the start of the season, but he also proved to the Aces' coaching staff that he's far from over the hill.

"It was sweet revenge for Kenneth," said Chua.

Marlou Aquino had a monster game for the Realtors, topscoring with 27 points on top of 9 rebounds and 5 blocks.

Dennis Espino added 21 points, including two free throws that sealed the match at 88-83 with 10 seconds left, and Duremdes added 18.

Fontaine fouled out with 1:41 left in the game and, although Alaska tied the match at 83-all on a three-pointer by Brandon Cablay, the Aces felt his absence in the crunch.

Fontaine fired 21 points in leading the Aces, who were forced to reactivate Ali Peek from sick bay in a bid to extend their season. Peek finished with six points.

Meanwhile, reigning league MVP Willie Miller of Red Bull Barako crushed San Miguel Beer's Joey Mente, 29-5, to rule the 6-foot-4 and below category of the one-on-one King of the Court tournament.

Miller pocketed the P150,000 champion's prize while Mente took home the runner-up purse of P50,000.

Scores:

STA. LUCIA 88—Aquino 27, Espino 24, Duremdes 18, Tutt 14, Mendoza 3, Webb 2, Bat-og 0, Victolero 0, Adriano 0, Ong 0, Tan 0.

ALASKA 86—Fontaine 20, Arigo 16, Camaso 14, Allado 10, Cablay 7, Peek 6, Duat 6, Cortez 5, Ordonio 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 15-18, 28-39, 62-61, 88-86.

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TORION: Sad day.

Flagrant foul to cost Torion ₱2.2M in pay

AN EIGHT-MONTH suspension that will cost him at least P2.2 million in salaries and an immediate P70,000 fine.

These were the unprecedented penalties imposed yesterday on Jimwell Torion of Red Bull by the Philippine Basketball Association for a flagrant foul on Jimmy Alapag late in the Red Bull-Talk 'N Text game Wednesday in the Samsung PBA Reinforced Conference.

Alapag suffered a fractured nose that required surgery Thursday and the league's top candidate for Rookie of the Year honors is expected to miss the start of the Phone Pals' semifinal series against the Coca-Cola Tigers this Sunday.

"This is a sad day for me. But my responsibility to the league is to instill discipline and maintain professionalism in the highest degree," said commissioner Noli Eala.

"I also want to stress that I will never allow any type of unsportsmanlike conduct in the league," he added.

Torion, the 5-foot-8 playmaker from Cebu, will serve his eight-month suspension beginning February until September. With his P275,000 monthly pay next season, Torion stands to lose at least P2.2 million.

Until yesterday, Rudy "The Destroyer" Distrito of Sunkist held the record as the league's "dirtiest" player after he was sacked for almost four months for a deliberate foul on Alaska's Jeffrey Cariaso during the second conference of the 1995 season.

The P70,000 fine also eclipsed the P40,000 penalty slapped on Junthy Valenzuela also of Red Bull for hitting David Woods of Purefoods with a clothesline during the 2001 Commissioner's Cup.

Torion's disciplinary record earlier in the season aggravated the case against the Red Bull pointguard.

Torion was involved in a pre-season scuffle with Barangay Ginebra's Bal David and was fined P25,000.

He also flunked the league's random drug test during the summer and was suspended for almost three months.

"Based on these records, the PBA can't help but issue those penalties. It is something we cannot tolerate," added Eala.

Eala said the PBA has already informed the Red Bull management about the decision and is not closing the door for an appeal from both team and player.

"As the tapes have shown, the act of Jimwell was unprovoked. His act can never be justified. The penalties send a clear message to the players that Torion's action has no place in the league," Eala said.

Torion, who appeared before the Commissioner's Office yesterday, was in tears as he offered no excuse for his actions. He also sought forgiveness from Alapag, the fans and his team, Eala said.

Toyota bids to relive its legend in the PBL

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOYOTA, a legend in Philippine basketball, is making a big comeback!

Toyota Otis yesterday announced it will be making a resurgence in the Philippine Basketball League starting next season.

The franchise made famous by the likes of Robert Jaworski, Mon Fernandez, Francis Arnaiz and which disbanded in 1983, will be parading in the core of the Letran Knights. It will be handled by coach Louie Alas.

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	3	1
Montana	3	1
Fash	2	2
Blu	2	2
ICTSI	2	2
Sunkist	1	2
Viva	1	2

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m. —ICTSI vs Welcoat
4 p.m. —Fash vs Viva

Toyota's return to the local cage world will also mark the first time an NCAA team will see action in the PBL.

The Knights will be joining ICTSI-La Salle, Fash Liquid Detergent-Ateneo, Viva Mineral Water-FEU and Sunkist UST which are in the thick of a PBL title hunt during the current UAAP break.

Among those expected to suit up for the Knights are reigning NCAA MVP 6-foot Ronjay Enrile, 6-foot-2 Jonathan Aldave, 6-foot-3 Aaron Aban and 5-foot-7 guard Boyet Bautista.

The Letran Knights captured the NCAA title over San Sebastian early this year at the start of its projected four-year build-up.

Meanwhile, Welcoat will gun for the solo leadership when it collides with ICTSI today in the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Paint Masters are currenty tied with Montana with a 3-1 slate. ICTSI will try to improve its 2-2 record.

In the second game, Fash Liquid Detergent (2-2) squares off with Viva Mineral Water (1-2) at 4 p.m.

WARREN De Guzman of Sunkist-UST eludes Gary David of Montaña Jewels in the game won by the Jewellers Thursday night, 85-73. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP five slots for Gonzales, Salangsang

CITING the need for more outside shooters and stronger rebounding, the national coaching staff headed by Aric del Rosario Thursday night inserted Joseph Allan Salangsang and Wesley Gonzales into the Philippine team for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games next month.

The 6-foot-5 Salangsang and the 6-4 Gonzales replaced 5-11 Paul Anthony Artadi and 6-3 William Wilson in the 12-man lineup tasked to defend the title handily won by a selection from the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur edition.

"After a thorough deliberation with my coaching staff (David Zamar and Dong Vergeire), we felt that Salangsang and Gonzales could help us more in Vietnam," said Del Rosario. "They're tall, they could shoot, run and defend."

Completing the team submitted to Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim yesterday are 6-foot-1 Richard Melencio, 5-8 Celino Cruz, 6-3 Gary David, 6-6 Ranidel de Ocampo, 6-7 Ervin Sotto, 5-9 Dennis Madrid, 6-3 James Yap, 6-5 Recaredo Calimag, 6-6 Jean Marc Pingris and 6-4 Richard Alvarez.

"It (changes) was a three-man decision. I trust the judgment of my assistants because they're both champion coaches in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association and SEA Games," added Del Rosario.

Salangsang, a product of Letran, and Ateneo stalwart Gonzales play for Fash Dishwashing Liquid in the Philippine Basketball League.

The team, dubbed RP-Cebuana Lhuillier, is leaving for Ho Chi Minh City on Dec. 2.

"This team is stronger than what we sent in the last Asian Basketball Confederation championship," said Del Rosario. RP-Cebuna Lhuillier landed 15th in the ABC, its worst ever in the biennial tournament.

Jean Henri Lhuillier has been designated by the BAP as team manager with Danny Francisco as deputy manager. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTSWATCH

Bakbakan under way, 120 fights on tap

ALL roads lead to the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City today as the finals of the Bakbakan 2003 National 8-Stag Derby take center stage with 120 fights on tap. Action starts at 2 p.m. Vying today are cream-of-the-crop rooster raisers from the 14-member associations of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (www.nfgb.sabungero.com). Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association is bidding to put away its third straight championship and the Bakbakan Perpetual Trophy. Hosted by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, Bakbakan 2003 is presented by Thunderbird Platinum, Casino Filipino and Derby Ace. Event partner is Supremo Feeds, while sponsors are Amtyl 500, Vitarich Panabong Feeds, Anima-Strath, Power-Pak, Belamyl, Progressive Poultry Supply, Hobby Master Incubators, RG Incubators and Washout Shampoo. The second set of qualifiers collide this Monday.

Tribute to legendary martial artist

THE UP Beta Sigma Fraternity will pay a tribute to one of its most outstanding alumni, the legendary martial artist Johnny F. Chiuten. Tribute night will be on Dec. 6 at the Bonifacio Hall of the Solaire UP in the Diliman campus. Popular TV comedian Willy Nepomuceno will host the progam, which will include exhibitions, demonstrations and a musical tribute directed by Ambassador Jimmy Yambao. Chiuten's colleagues, students and friends including UP President Francisco Nemenzo, former UP President Jose Abueva, Mat Defensor, Yongyong Afable, Boy Morales and Shakespeare Chan will deliver testimonials. Interested parties may call Ollie Jomao-as at 0920-908-2312 or Cris Michelena at 0917-699-4321.

Microwarehouse enters regatta meet

MICROWAREHOUSE, the leading distributor of networking hardware and mobile computing products in the Philippines, including the Palm, will enter two teams in the first Buena Vista 'Round Taal Volcano Regatta and Governor's Cup at the Taal Lake Yacht Club (TLYC) today and tomorrow. Under the banner of Pa1mOne, the teams will be skippered by Microwarehouse's Jun Villanueva and Peter Capotosto. Participants in the regatta, organized by Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club in partnership with the TLYC, will compete for the best time, as they maneuver their sailboats in two races around Taal Volcano and four other courses on Taal Lake.

Grace Christian alumni caging up

THE GRACE Christian High School Inter-Batch Alumni basketball tournament kicks off Sunday at the GCHS gym, with Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista as guest of honor. Twelve teams are vying in the tourney, according to tournament director Bonnie Tan. Sponsored by Red Bull Barako Coffee, Uratex Foam, UCM Cooling Coil and One Spa and Fitness Center, the competition format follows a two-group elimination round. Gracing the inaugural rites are Ernesto Tanchi, Grace Alumni Association president; George Barcelon, vice president; and Dr. James Tan, GCHS principal. Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua, a GCHS product, will deliver the opening remarks.

Top cockers vying in La Loma derby

A BIG field of participants is expected in a 4-cock derby to be hosted by promoter Bobot Yu at the La Loma Cockpit Arena on Dec. 16. The long list of participants include Danny Pe, Peter Acuña, Dr. Allan Hernandez, Jerry Ang, Dante Samson, Erning Barcelona, Tony Lasala, Danny Ty, lawyer Romero Yu, Bobby Vinluan, Arman Santos, Biboy Enriquez and basketball star Johnny Abarrientos. For an entry fee of P11,000, the guaranteed cash prize at stake is P300,000, said Yu, who also hosted LLCA's 4-cock event last year which attracted 57 entries. The winning handler and gaffer will get P30,000 and P20,000 respectively. For inquiries, call 740-7398, 740-2136 and 740-7392.

15 foreign breeders join Cavite cockfest

FIFTEEN foreign cockers are now in town to compete in the annual Cavite International 7-Cock derby on Dec. 1, 3 and 5 at the Cavite Coliseum. Bannering the foreigners is multititled California breeder Jorge Torres, the regular partner of Patrick Antonio in international derbies like the World Slashers Cup. Torres will field three entries in partnership with Fil-Am cocker Conrad Burgos. Also competing are Rep. Benjamin Sablan of Saipan, John Tenorio of Guam, Tan Li Ong of Malaysia, Riochi Saito of Japan, Rene Azucena of Tenessee and Dan Gray of Alabama. This annual fund-raising event is being hosted by Sen. Ramon Revilla and longtime friends Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co. At stake is P2 million, with the entry fee pegged at P30,000. For inquiries, call Ferdie Bautista at 046-970991 or 09185674921.

Lhuillier cagers halt Ilocos

BACK-TO-BACK titlist M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Cebu turned back the Ilocos Sur Snipers, 87-79, .Thursday at the Adamson gym to grab solo leadership in the 2003 Panasonic-National Basketball League Regional Cup tournament.

The Snipers held sway through almost three quarters, but veteran Ruben dela Rosa ignited a 14-3 run, capped by three triples as the Cebuanos seized the upper hand for good, 67-66.

It was Lhuillier's fourth straight win while the loss was the Snipers' first in four games.

Defending champion Compak-Shineway Ozamiz City downed Grachiya-Adamson in overtime, 82-81, in the other match.

First Game

LHUILLIER 89—Ayling 18, Smith 13, Laygo 13, Rodriguez 11, Reyes 9, Lumatas 8, Dela Rosa 5, Enriquez 4, Cantona 4, Canoneo 2, Ocanada 2, Dacla 0, Caputolan 0

ILOCOS SUR 79—Evans 20, ferreira 20, Machica 14, Agapito 12, Reyes 6, Barbosa 5, Butel 2, Sillona 0, Tadeo 0.

Quarters: 16-35, 44-52, 67-66, 89-79

Second Game

OZAMIZ 82—Cabigkis 15, Sampilo 11, Guerrero 11, Alminario 10, Ferraren 8, Cabrera 8, Booker 7, Flores 4, De Jesus 4, Echavez 3, Rodriguez 1, Libatog 0, Guiyab 0

ADAMSON 81—Bono 17, Abadia 14, Tagupa 12, Cabahug 10, Hugnatan 8, Alonzo 7, Hate 4, Tajonera 4, Poloyapoy 3, Tiongco 2, Gandarosa 0, Capati 0

Quarters: 18-21, 44-47, 58-63, 73-73 (reg.), 82-81

Caruncho badminton action begins today

SOME 200 players plunge into action today in the first Mayor Emiliano Caruncho Memorial Badminton Cup at the Badminton Gold Sports Center in Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

Gracing the opening ceremony at 8 a.m. is former councilor Emiliano "Boy" Caruncho III, the only son of the late mayor.

Tournament organizer Boogle Ona of Indoor Sports Specialists Inc. said 15 individual titles and a team championship are at stake in the event sponsored by official shuttlecock Dunlop, Tru-flex, Mondo, Mr. Quickie, Caruncho Scholarship Foundation, Goldilocks-One Mercedes branch, Mariposa Hotels and One Mercedes Plaza. For inquiries, call 642-6623.

Yeng

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I KNOW one reason why Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao has resigned. But just like him, I can't say it here. The reason will indict a person, if not several persons. Besmirch their reputation even. Like Yeng G, I will not do that. Although that reason is truer than true, still it's not right to say it here. No proof. No hard evidence. To state it here might make me a rumor peddler. As always, I am not one to embrace hearsay.

It's shocking enough to hear it happening again. This termite of a disease that keeps gnawing at the league. Worse than cancer. Game fixing? Point shaving? But for Yeng G to get too affected by either of the two or even both as to leave his post, why he can't be blamed.

But still, will somebody please knock some sense into Yeng G's head?

I know Yeng G has been into a much tougher battle—scarier and even riskier. But resignation is not the solution, my dear Yeng G. Fight it from within. The fight from the outside will lead you nowhere.

I'm saddened by Yeng's resignation, which triggered also the resignation of team manager Tony Chua and Yeng's ever faithful deputy, Roehl Nadurata. I hope George Chua, the owner of Batang Red Bull, will reject it and convince Yeng to stay on. Yeng is one of the few coaches around whose decency is beyond question, not to mention his enviable skills as a masterful bench tactician. His loss would surely leave a big hole in the Batang Red Bull system.

Yeng G has actually been into difficult times but mostly, they were not entirely his fault.

First, he piloted Batang Red Bull to unprecedented heights at the beginning of the season, only to see his wards fall hard due to a format that put premium on mediocrity rather than intelligence.

Next, Yeng G saw his crew getting decimated by a plethora of reasons, the most painful being that two of his chief gunners had gotten themselves embroiled in the drug mess.

Then, when Yeng G's team was on the verge again of claiming its much-delayed stint in a PBA championship showdown, two of his frontliners played roles as eerie as the thought of seeing Manny Pacquiao become president of this republic next year.

What happened next to Yeng G is something more hair-raising than Linda Blair being suspended in midair in "The Exorcist."

Jimwell Torion, just returned from drug rehabilitation, broke the nose of Talk 'N Text's Jimmy Alapag in their game on Tuesday, an unprovoked act that could only come from a certified drug addict. With such display of mayhem—Alapag needed surgery to return his nose to its original form—Torion ought not only to be sent back to the doghouse: He must be chained to it. He has become a menace to society.

As if Torion's fury was not enough blow to kill Yeng G's hopes of finally seeing his team advance to the semifinals, Willie Miller, who is not only Red Bull Barako's most valuable player but also the league's in the last season, scored only two points in 29 minutes of play. If you ask me, Miller's action was more inhuman than Hitler's murder of more than six million Jews in World War II. In Hitler's case, Hitler was a mad man who would blow his-brains off with his own gun after realizing his folly. In Miller's case, he was a sane man when he did that. Or, was he?

Perish the thought, or take this: Miller rhymes with Hitler.

***

FASTBREAK. To all lovers of *kalderetang kambing* (goat stew, Ilocano style), hear this. This afternoon, my friends like Taby Tabaniag, Jake P. Ayson, Roger Flores, Admiral Louie Fernandez, Col. Ely Buluran, Benny Gopez, Commodore Danny Pizarro, Eric Gozo and Rod Feliciano will feast on this exotic viand especially prepared at Caffe Appassionato along N. Garcia Street in Makati City. Grappa's owner Bert Bravo has personally selected two goats from his goat farm in Dumaguete City and had them loaded in a Manila-bound PAL jet yesterday. Bert's *kaldereta* party caps today another smashing success of the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am. The party is a much-awaited occasion that began in 2001 at the Riviera clubhouse in Silang, Cavite. "As promised, the *kaldereta*'s coming on Saturday," Bert said to me yesterday. "In keeping with tradition, hope to see you there?" As always, count me in, *Pareng* Bert. People from Ilokoslovakia are too macho that they always keep their word, "come hic or high fever." *Wen apo kabsat!*

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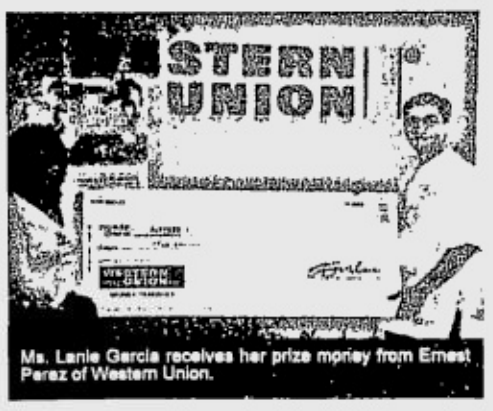

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VENTURA shows off his stuff.

Davao tandem back at helm

Bañares-Dumandan sizzles with 71

By Jong Arcano

IF only all golf tournaments were played like the U-Bix National Pro-am, Ruel Bañares is more than willing to keep Marvin Dumandan as his permanent amateur partner.

Enjoying the limelight he never had in his first four years as a pro, Bañares rolled in the crucial birdie putts Dumandan set up for him as the two Davaoeños became the first team to break par yesterday with their 1-under 71 that gave them the lead after 54 holes.

Bañares and Dumandan went three under after eight holes and finished with a two-stroke lead over Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco with a 223 aggregate at the Langer course of the challenging Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Cantada and Tanpinco carded a 74 and relinquished the lead they had shared with two different teams in the past two rounds.

The youthful pair took a triple-bogey on the sixth and reeled back on another bogey-double bogey blunder on Nos. 15-16. But after a birdie-less spell in Round 2, they redeemed themselves with five birdies—all on Gerard's red-hot putting—to keep their bid alive.

The defending champion Miñoza brothers, Raul and Paul, tumbled down from the top after a 78 and will start today's final round six shots off in third place at 229.

Of the 31 teams that made the cut, the all-Korean team of Park Sung-Mo and Lee Seong-Kee (76) were in fourth at 231, Benjie Magada-Dicky Dizon (80) fifth at 232 and the pairs of Ramil Bisera-Jay Bayron (74) and Jorge Abada-Michael Bibat (79) were tied for sixth at 233.

The day's sad story belonged to Cookie Lao and his prominent partner Commodore Danny Pizarro who happens to be the president of the host club. Starting the round only a shot out of the lead, they skied to a 92 and missed the cut by one.

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RP bet tops Nike Freestyle Face Off regional finals

THE PHILIPPINES' Niño Ventura ruled the Nike Freestyle Face Off regional finals held at the Youth Park on Somerset Road in Singapore recently.

Ventura, an 18-year-old freshman at Asia Pacific College, bested representatives from Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia to win exclusive Nike products.

A Thai and a Singaporean finished second and third, respectively.

A former San Beda Red Cub, Ventura gained the nod of judges with his near-flawless execution of moves that include his trademark compass, which he modified by using a cell phone while dribbling the ball, and two-ball juggling. He also surprised the competition with a new trick he called swimming, where he rolls his body on a basketball.

Ventura was one of the four freestyle champions sent by Nike Philippines to Singapore. The others were Peter Benjamin Cabria II, John Moises Melao and Sung Hag-Ahn, a replacement for Stanley Kareth who was unable to join the trip. They were selected from a field of more than 200 participants during the Nike Freestyle Face Off last Nov. 7 at the Rockwell Tent.

The four Filipino freestylers, who also performed during a special Nike Singapore trade show on Nov. 16, were accompanied by Nike Philippine Sports marketing manager Auty Villarama.

Champions League Big 8 action Tuesday

POWER teams St. Francis of Assisi and San Sebastian College face separate rivals coming off a rest when Big Eight action in the Champions League unfolds next Tuesday at the FEU gym.

The Doves, the first to advance after repulsing Adamson, meet the winner between University of San Jose-Recoletos and University of Assumption-Pampanga.

The Stags, on the other hand, clash with the victor in the University of Visayas-San Beda encounter.

In the other half of the Big Eight, Far Eastern takes on NCAA titlist Letran while Ateneo plays Holy Cross of Davao College, conqueror of last year's champion University of the East.

With FEU involved in the playoffs, games will be played in a neutral venue to be announced later.

Peppery guard Al Vergara had a big game in the Doves' conquest of Adamson with 14 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and two steals.

Other notable performers in the Sweet 16 were Ateneo's Paolo Bugia, San Sebastian's Red Vicente and FEU's Arwind Santos.

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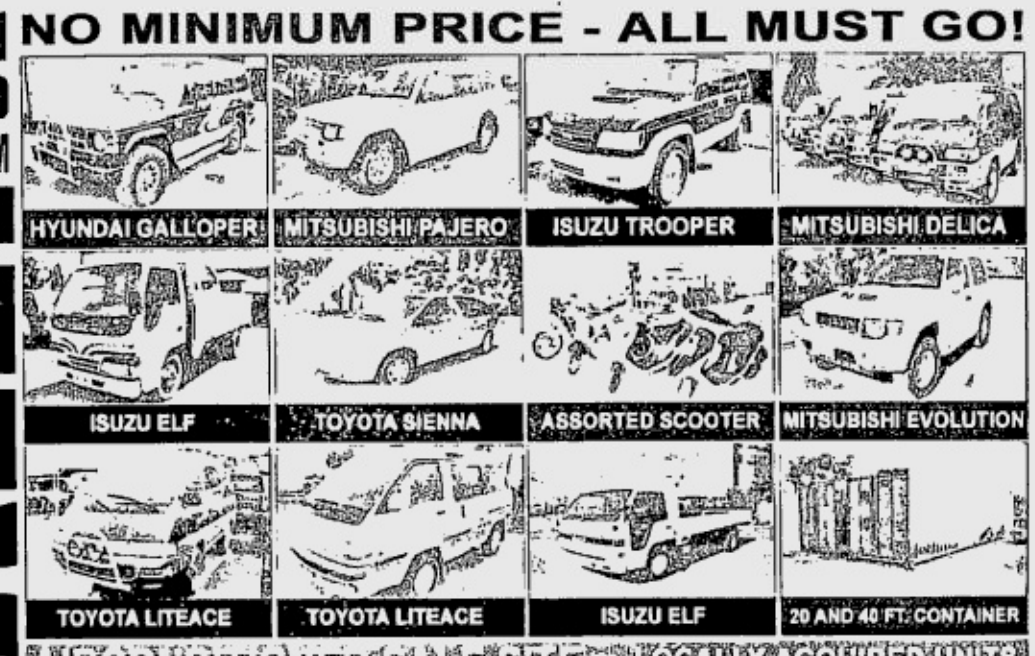
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Arcilla, Korean top seed arrange PCA title clash

SECOND seed Johnny Arcilla capitalized on Pop Sabandon's erratic backhand to reach the finals of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao.

Boosted by his nine-title streak this year, the 23-year-old Arcilla scored a 6-3, 6-4 victory over the Marawi City-born Sabandon.

Arcilla forged a clash with top seed South Korean Chung Hee-Seok, who clobbered fourth seed Joseph Victorino, 6-1, 6-0.

"*Inatake ko sa* backhand, *tapos pasok agad sa* net," said Arcilla, who will banner the national team in the Vietnam SEA Games next month.

Against the Korean, Arcilla said he will have to be patient. "*Magaling yung* Korean. *Tiyagaan na lang, sanay naman ako sa init.*"

Meanwhile, top seeds Rina Caniza and Jennifer Saret downed Michelle Panis and Bernardine Sepulveda, 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the ladies doubles semifinals of this event presented by Dunlop and sponsored by Diadora, PLDT, Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola, Copacabana, San Miguel Corp., Stronghold, Little Lawrence, PVL Restaurant and the Philippine Star.

Caniza and Saret will face Alyssa Anne Labay and Bien Zoleta, who downed Trudy Amoranto and Aileen Rogan, 6-2, 6-3.

Second seeds Ana Patricia Santos and Czarina Mae Arevalo demolished No. 8 Ziarla Battad and Julie Ann Cadiente, 6-1, 6-1, to advance against Divine Escala and Josephine Paguyo, 6-1, 6-3.

Camping tops Jungolf Class A

REMIJIN Camping fired a day-best even-par 72 at Sherwood Hills to emerge Class A champion even as Cyna Rodriguez, Andrea Legaspi, Bambee de la Paz and Janella Buen scored contrasting victories in the girls' division of the recent November tournament of the Samsung Jungolf tour.

Camping's big round at the Jack Nicklaus-designed course gave her the crown over Geleen Handog, who was recently elevated to the Class A division for players 15-17 years.

De la Paz posted an 88 and won the Class B plum over Beverly Mendoza (105); Rodriguez (82) was too hot for Angelika Datingaling (106) in Class C; Legaspi (82) beat Katya de la Cruz (97) for the Class D crown while Buen (160) finished two ahead of Min Gi Kim in the special six-under division.

Andie Unson was unchallenged for the title in Class E played at the Riviera course.

IG Gutierrez, Mikee Camitoc, Gyung Lee Don, Miguel Tabuena, AR Ramos and Tonton Arevalo made up the champions' roster in the boys division.

Tabuena won his second straight Class D event after a 73, with Bino de la Paz placing second at 82. Gutierrez (78) edged Justin Tambunting and Mico Alejandro by one in Class A; Camitoc (74) made his first appearance by winning over John Kier Abdon (84) and Ramos posted a 107 then nipped JR Gonzales in a countback for the title.

Lee joined hands with Yoon Sungbin for a 1-2 finish by Korean kids in Class C.

The tourney, organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, marked the start of the implementation of a national point system that will determine the members of the national delegation for tournaments abroad.

Gerry Handog, president of Jungolf, said that there will be at least four events offering points heading into next year's schedule from January all the way up to the summer circuit.

For inquiries, call Gay at the Jungolf secretariat at the Makati Golf Club at 893-9599.

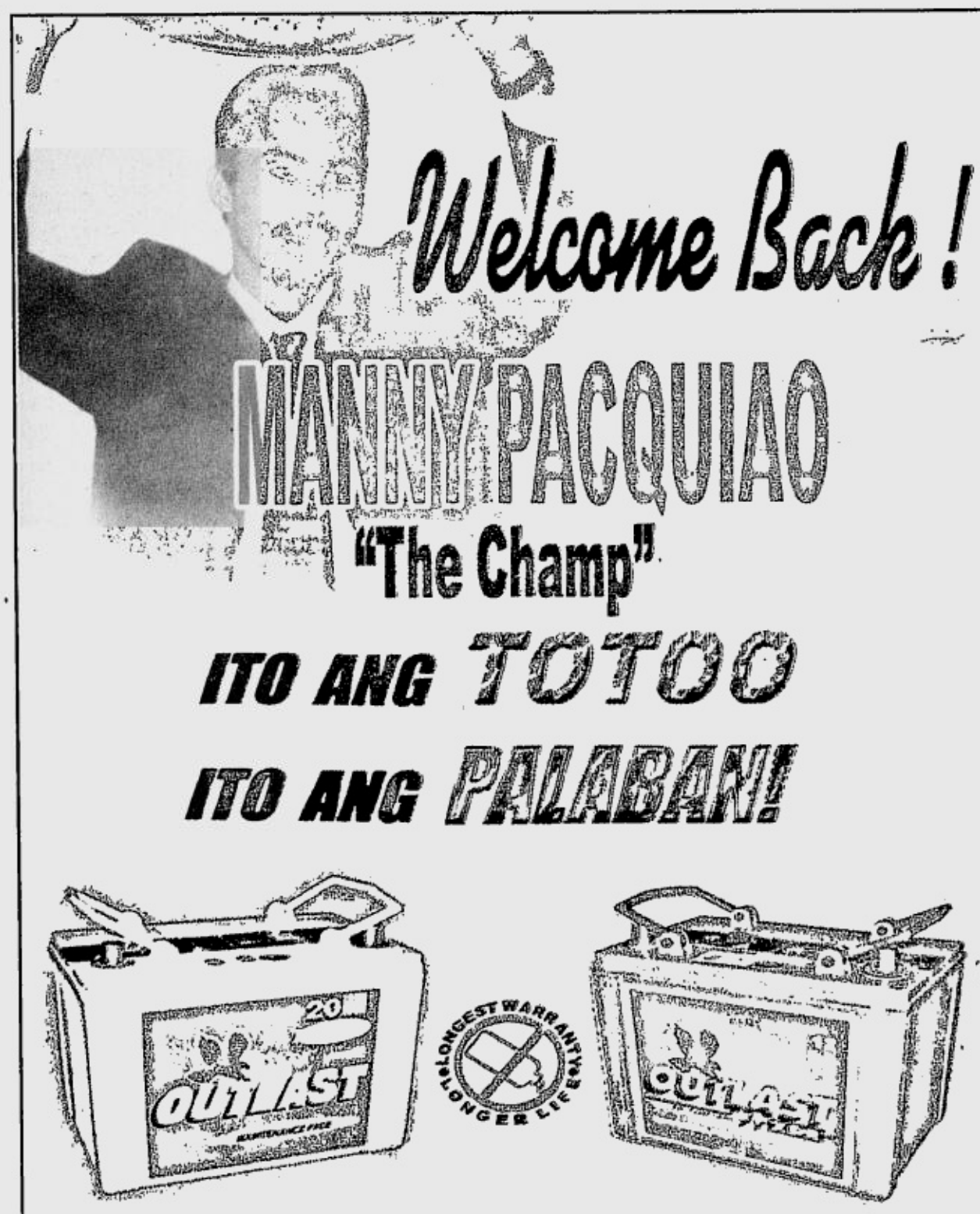
Archers-Stags tiff ushers in Puyat Cup

FIVE games featuring top-rated varsity and collegiate teams will kick off the Red Bull-sponsored Lito Puyat Cup basketball tournament at 9 a.m. today at the FEU gym along Morayta Street.

It will be the La Salle Green Archers against the San Sebastian Stags at 9 a.m., Perpetual Help against Adamson at 10:30, UP against San Beda at 12:30 p.m., Ateneo against Philippine Christian University-A at 2 p.m. and NU against PCU-B at 3:30.

A brief opening ceremony will be held with two-time Fiba president and long-time BAP head Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II as guest of honor.

"Red Bull is supporting the event because it is being held in honor of the man who has done a lot for basketball here and abroad," said Photokina executive George C. Chua.



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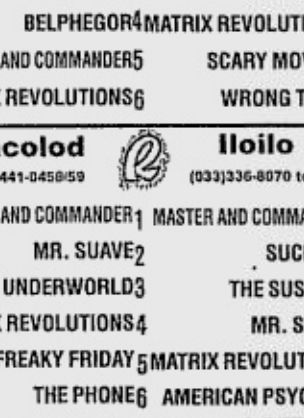

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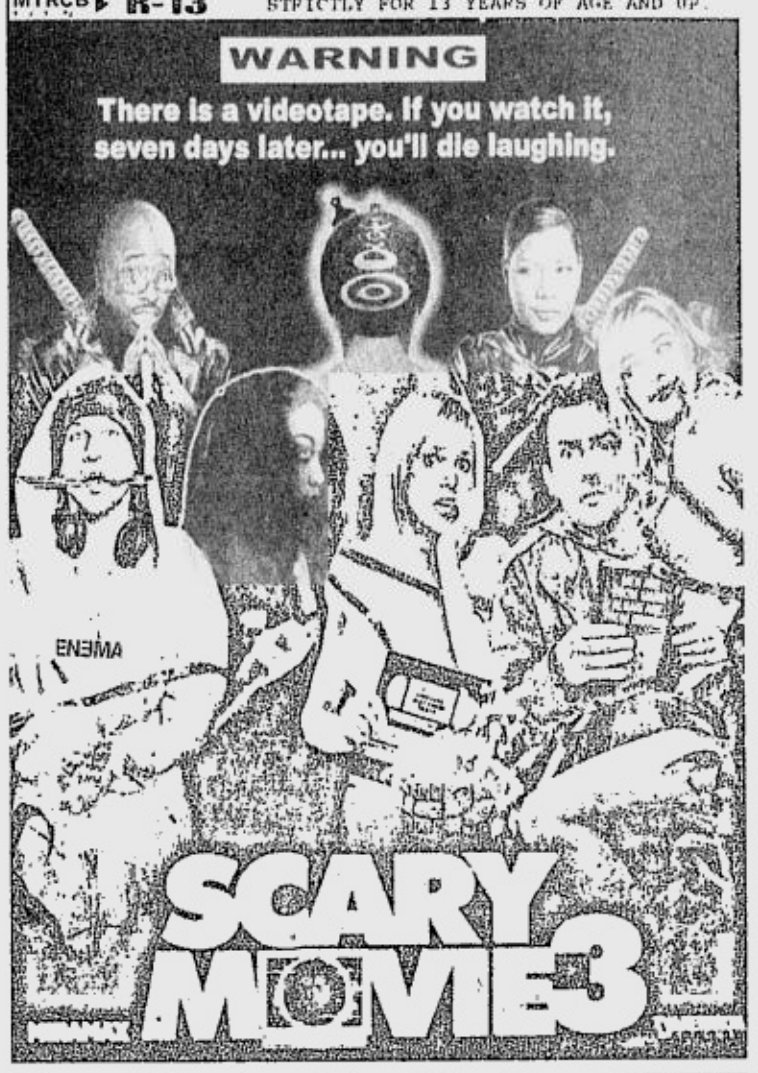

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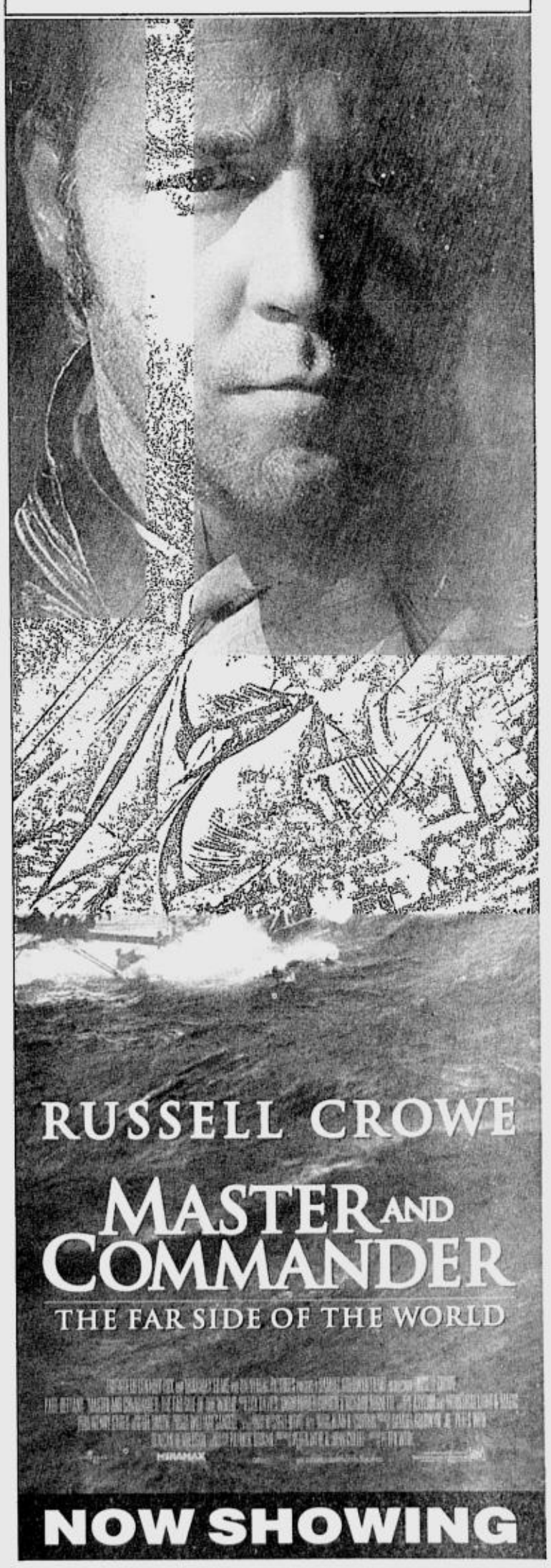

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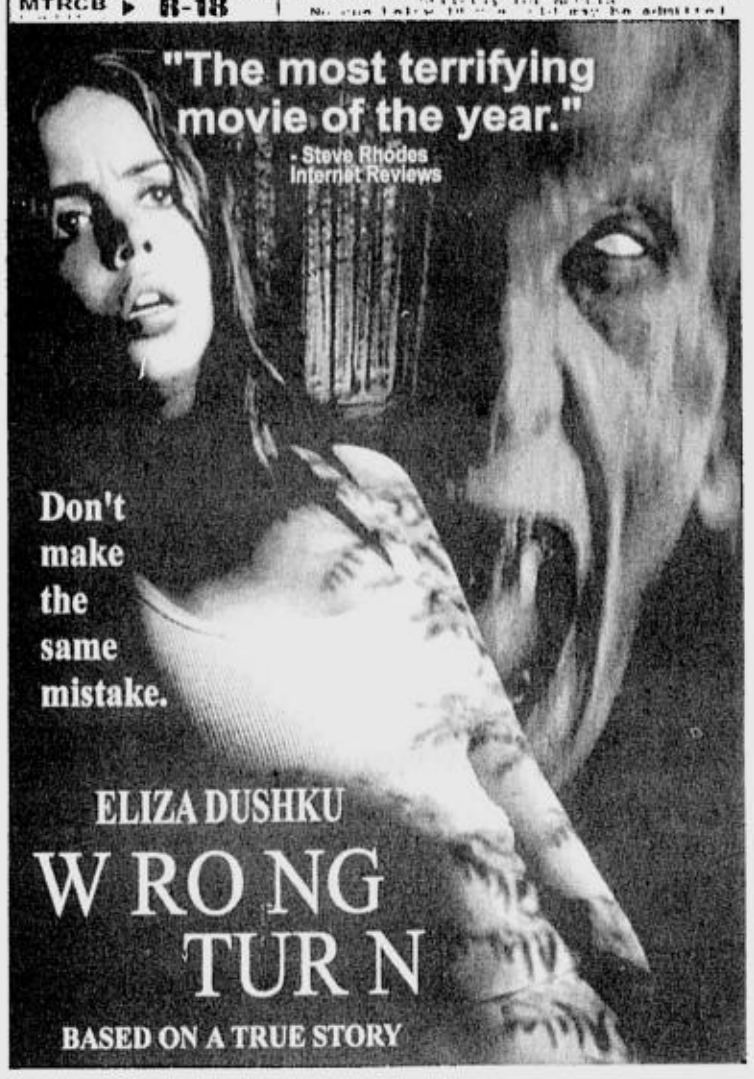

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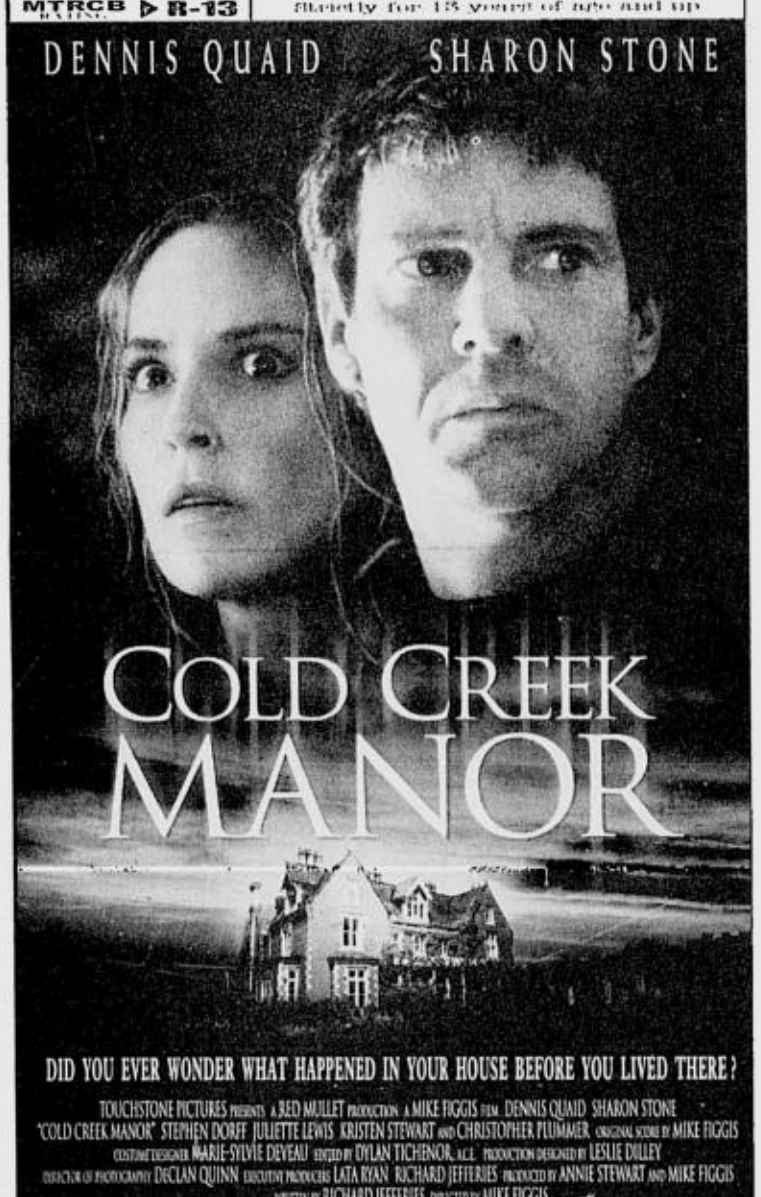

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5 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER & COMMANDER
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (DTS) (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	MR. SUAVE
9	MR. SUAVE
10	WISHER

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2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
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MASTER & COMMANDER

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2	MY BOSS DAUGTHER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

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2	
3	

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1	MR. SUAVE
2	
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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4	RESERVE
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6	MR. SUAVE
7 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
9 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

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3	MR. SUAVE
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	LIBERATED
9	MAPANUKSO

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	SEX SCANDAL
2 (SDDS)	WRONG TURN
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
4 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Gotesco Ortigas

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3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	SEX SCANDAL
5 (SDDS)	MASTER & COMMANDER

Universal

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1	RESERVE

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords	SEX SCANDAL
Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong

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2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3	SEX SCANDAL
4	RESERVE

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3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	MR. SUAVE
5	SCARY MOVIE-3

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(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

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2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 · 879.2029

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4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE 3
6	LIBERATED
7	WRONG TURN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242 8400

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2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

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2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	UP TOWN GIRL
2 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
3 (SDDS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MR. SUAVE
2 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	UP TOWN GIRL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

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2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	

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1	MR. SUAVE
2	LIBERATED
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4 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION

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2 (DTS)	LIBERATED
3	MR. SUAVE

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MR. SUAVE
2	LAGING SARIWA
3 (DTS)	MAPANUKSO
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Olivarez Tri-Cinema

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2	MR. SUAVE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTION

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2	MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	MR. SUAVE

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2 (DTS)	RESERVE

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2	MR. SUAVE
3	

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3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	BELPHEGOR

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3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	LIBERATED

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BASKETBALL: T-wolves vs Cavs; 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.), ESPN; Bucks vs Jazz; 10 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports - KG meets King James as Minnesota visits Cleveland while rebuilding squads Milwaukee and Utah square off at the Delta Center.

BILLIARDS: US 9 Ball Open; 10:30 p.m.; Solar Sports - See the Pinoy cue artists shine.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV A30

Compiled by L. Manguiat

SPORTS

Yankees, Devil Rays to play in Japan

NEW YORK—The New York Yankees would play the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in Tokyo on March 30-31 if they decide to go ahead with a season-opening trip to Japan. The Yankees and Devil Rays would leave the United States on March 25 and arrive in Japan the following day. *AP*

Diaz takes ADT lead

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—Laura Diaz shrugged off an ankle injury that will require off-season surgery to grab the first round lead Thursday at the LPGA's ADT Championship.

Diaz carded a three-under-par 69 in blustery conditions at Trump International Golf Club to take the lead in the season-ending event.

Diaz led Lorie Kane of Canada by a stroke, with Meg Mallon the only other player under par at a tournament open only to the top 30 money-winners on the LPGA Tour.

The biggest star of them all, Annika Sorenstam of Sweden, shared 10th place after posting a 74, the same score as Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, last week's Tour Championship winner.

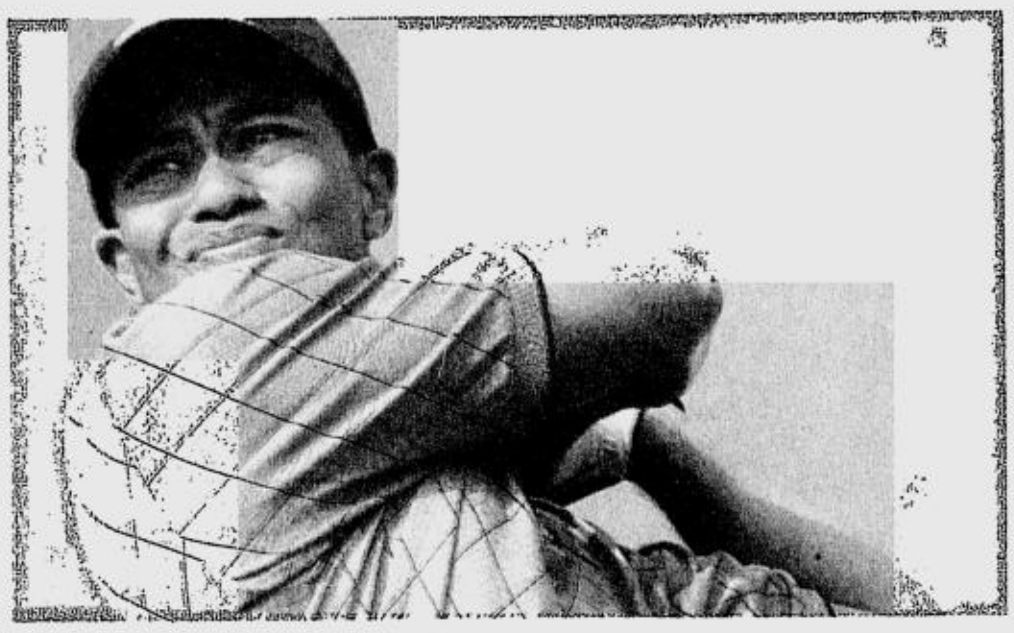
Sorenstam played in the final pairing with South Korean Se Ri Pak, who signed for a 73.

Diaz was off in the first duo with best friend Heather Bowie. The day didn't start so well, but she rebounded from an opening bogey by recording five birdies and a bogey the rest of the way.

"This is a really important tournament," said Diaz, who just had three top-10 finishes in 26 starts this season. "This is what you strive for all year long. You know, you want to be in the top 30 and it's an honor to be able to be here." Diaz is fortunate she made it to the 1 million-dollar event. Thanks mostly to a bad ankle, she is just 29th on the money list with 405,392 dollars, her lowest total in three years.

Diaz expects to have a surgery in the offseason, which would sideline her some three months. She doesn't mind as long as she returns for the Nabisco Championship—the first major of the year—in March.

Mallon was the only other player under par at the 6,506-yard, par-72 course, where wind wreaked havoc with the best female golfers in the world. *AFP*



WOODS tees off on the 9th hole. AP

US golfers trail Int'l

GEORGE, South Africa—World number one Tiger Woods and local favorite Ernie Els will go head-to-head at the Presidents Cup at Fancourt on Friday.

The pair will meet in the morning fourballs, along with Charles Howell III and South Africa's Tim Clark who will play with Woods and Els respectively in the United States Internationals team match.

Woods holds a 3-1 winning record over world number three Els at the Presidents Cup, although they have never met in singles in a rivalry that goes back to 1998.

Woods and Howell started the 2003 matches successfully by winning their foursomes by 4 and 3 over Australia's Stuart Appleby and South Korea's K.J. Choi on Thursday.

But the US trail 3-1/2 to 2-1/2 after the first day's play.

Els partnered Australia's Adam Scott to a one-up victory over Justin Leonard and Jim Furyk.

"After all the support Tiger had today, we'll see if he has it when he meets Els," US team captain Jack Nicklaus said, referring to the strong support the American received from the South African galleries.

International captain Gary Player changed every one of the his pairings around after the successful foursomes for Friday's fourballs, while the US team has retained three of the same pairings.

Phil Mickelson and David Toms will be first out against Australia's Robert Allenby and Canada's Mike Weir, followed by Kenny Perry and Davis Love III against South African Retief Goosen and Choi. *Reuters*

Mavs down Spurs; Suns spoil Magic

DALLAS—Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points and Antoine Walker had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 95-92 win over the San Antonio Spurs in one of just two games in the NBA on Thursday.

NOWITZKI

Dallas stayed unbeaten at home (6-0) this season with the win. The Mavericks nearly blew a 16-point lead before holding off a late San Antonio charge to pick up the win.

Michael Finley scored 17 points for the Mavericks, who had their lead cut to 92-90 with 18 seconds left. Rick Nash added 12 points one game after his first career triple-double.

Tim Duncan led the fourth quarter charge for the Spurs and wound up with 30 points and 17 rebounds.

Rasho Nesterovic had 18 points for the Spurs, who were playing in Dallas for the first time since winning Game Six of the Western Conference finals last season.

Manu Ginobili added 12 points, seven rebounds and four assists for the Spurs, now 7-5.

In Phoenix, Shawn Marion bagged 16 points to lead seven Suns players in double figures when Phoenix spoiled the coaching debut of Johnny Davis with a 96-89 win over the Orlando Magic.

The Suns handed the Magic its 11th straight loss after a win to open the season.

Stephon Marbury added 14 points and 11 assists for Phoenix.

Tracy McGrady had 20 points to lead Orlando, while Tyronn Lue added 14 points. *Reuters*

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Marho Breeders Cup fires off today

ALL roads lead to the Santa Ana Park today as local racing's most coveted championships, the 8th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup Racing Festival, finally get under way.

Three divisional championships and a slew of top money special races comprise the exciting roster of races.

Set to be contested in today's 14-race card are the championships in the two-year-old and three-year-old filly divisions, as well as the top sprinter's title in this first instalment of local racing's richest race festival.

Marho chief Aristeo "Putch" Puyat yesterday expressed optimism that the first session of the two-day championships will get the full-backing of the racing public.

"Racing fans will be treated to topnotch horse racing action involving some of the country's most promising distaff campaigners and fleetest runners," Puyat said.

Leading the charge of title contenders are some of the headliners in the two-year-old filly division, including Tini Bambini, Cover Girl, Concorde and Miss Bobon.

Distance for the P1-million Juvenile Fillies Championship has been set at 1,500 meters.

A battle royale for first is expected in the SMB-Marho 3YO Distaff Mile contest headlined by War Hero. Expected to crowd the big finishing filly are two of last year's Juvenile starters, Tatler Cover and Noor, as well as, consistent performer Strong Lady.

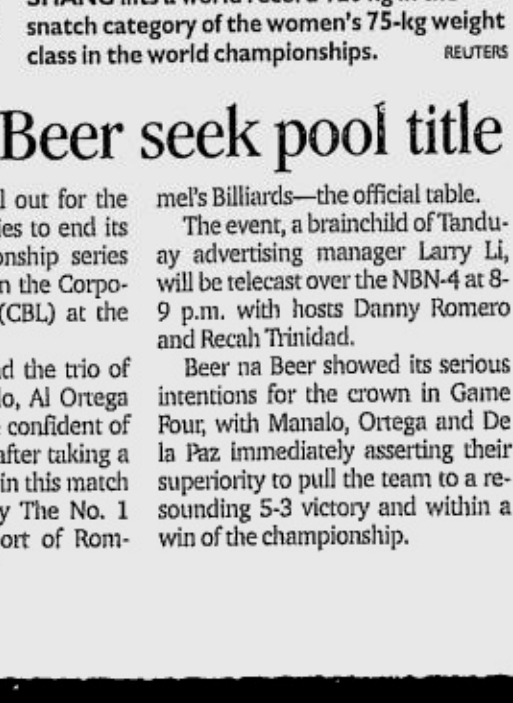
The Marho Premium Races are being supported by Smart Communications, the Philippine Racing Commission, PCSO and the Philippine Racing Club, Inc.

Games Village is ready

ATHENS, Greece—Athens' Olympic Village complex will be ready in February, a month ahead of schedule, a site executive promised Thursday.

Katerina Barbosa said 80 percent of construction work had been completed at the facility which will house more than 16,000 athletes and officials during the Aug. 13-29 Olympics.

The organizers are keen to highlight progress following years of delays and warnings by the International Olympic Committee. AP



SHANG lifts a world record 120 kg in the snatch category of the women's 75-kg weight class in the world championships. REUTERS

Beer na Beer seek pool title

BEER na Beer goes all out for the P100,00 purse as it tries to end its best-of-seven championship series with Skyflakes today in the Corporate Billiards League (CBL) at the Robinsons Galleria.

The Brewers, behind the trio of skipper Marlon Manalo, Al Ortega and Emil dela Paz, are confident of wrapping up the title after taking a commanding 3-1 lead in this match sponsored by Tanduay The No. 1 Rhum with the support of Rommel's Billiards—the official table.

The event, a brainchild of Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li, will be telecast over the NBN-4 at 8-9 p.m. with hosts Danny Romero and Recah Trinidad.

Beer na Beer showed its serious intentions for the crown in Game Four, with Manalo, Ortega and De la Paz immediately asserting their superiority to pull the team to a resounding 5-3 victory and within a win of the championship.

BUSINESS

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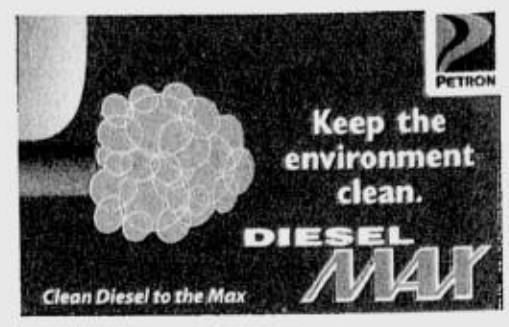


BSP orders banks to put up credit information bureau

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday ordered banks to put up a common credit rating bureau not later than the end of 2004 or be forced to put up additional capital for higher risk provisions.

"If the banking system would not put up a credit bureau then outstanding loans would be subject to a higher risk. We could raise the required capital adequacy ratio and impose higher risk-weighting for their loans," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

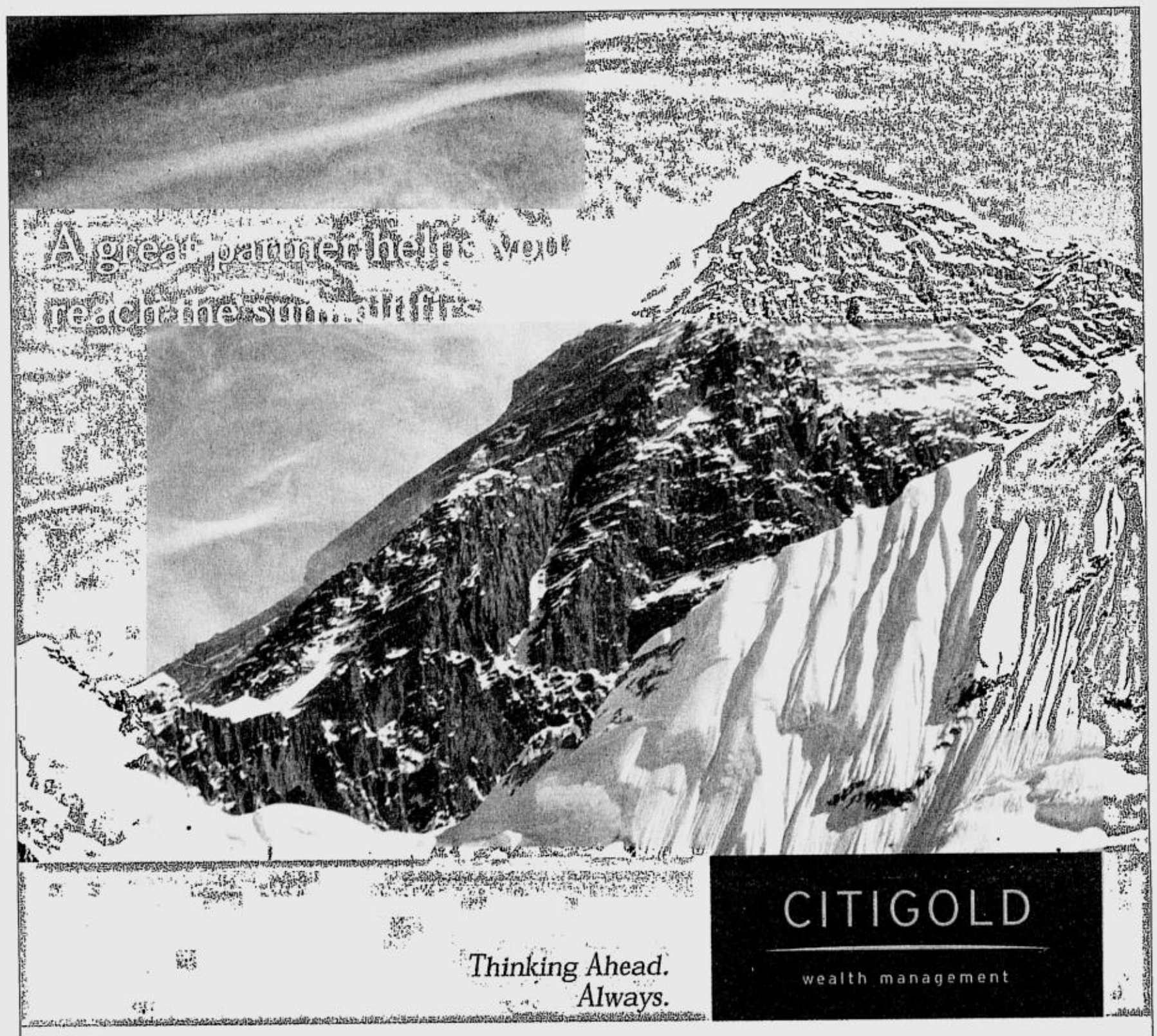
A common credit rating bureau would allow players to share vital credit information, blacklist delinquent borrowers, and properly price risks on a particular loan.

Buenaventura said the central bank was considering putting up its own credit bureau or ask another government agency to establish it.

BSP/ B2

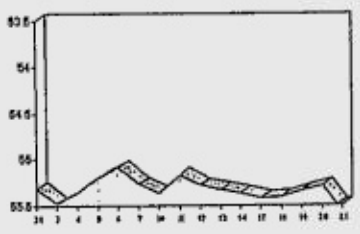
Southern Luzon lures bulk of local tourists

See story on page B16



CURRENCIE

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



GRAPHS BY TERE CRUZ

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¥ 108.90 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2003

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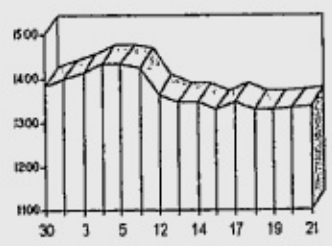
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 21, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks end mildly up

SHARES ended mildly up after bobbing within a tight range yesterday, with players picking up selected blue-chip issues despite renewed concerns over terror threats after a deadly attack in Turkey.

Traders said the market was deep in a consolidation mood, with foreign players taking profits following a strong rally that peaked early this month.

Top phone firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) lifted the market, accounting for about 19 percent of total market turnover.

The Philippine stock index climbed 1.96 points, or 0.15 percent, to 1,334.30 points.

The index has gained 31.02 percent so far this year, but is down around 7 percent from this year's peak reached on Nov. 4.

"Index wise, we are at the point where the market is ripe for bargain hunting," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"The market is looking for fresh leads to push it from its current spot," Plana said.

He added market players were wary of renewed security concerns following twin blasts that killed 27 people at the British consulate and HSBC offices in Turkey.

The broader All Shares index was down

STOCKS/ B9

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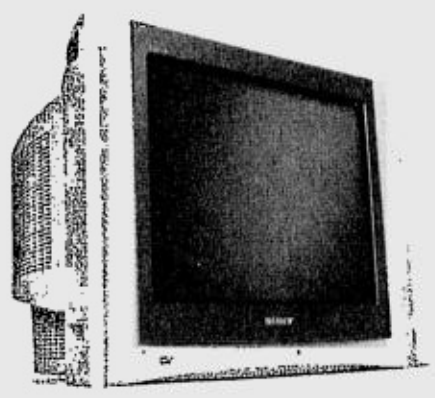

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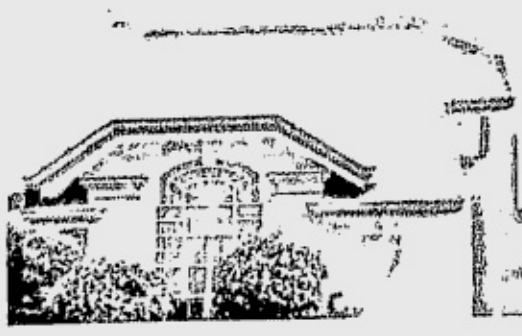

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BSP orders banks . . .

From page B1

"The problem is, by law, the BSP cannot put up its own subsidiary. So we are studying if we can ask another government agency to help us," he added.

The Philippines is among the few countries in Asia without a common credit rating bureau and as a result, notorious borrowers with delinquent accounts in some banks can still borrow from other financial institutions.

Buenaventura said the initiative has already attracted interests from the likes of credit-rating firms Dan & Bradstreet and multilateral agencies like the International Finance Corp. Dun & Bradstreet is a US firm specializing in business information for credit marketing.

"Good borrowers should not be subsidizing bad creditors, which is what has been happening because of a lack of information. Without a credit bureau, individuals and even companies get to a point when they become overleveraged," the central bank chief said.

Buenaventura said the BSP had been pressuring banks to put up a credit bureau since last year.

"I want a credit bureau in place by the end of next year or at least until the end of my term," said Buenaventura, whose fixed term ends in July 2005.

He said banks were reluctant to support the initiative because they would not want to share information on their clients. "They are agreeable to sharing the blacklist but not the positive list."

A risk-weight is a BSP criterion used by banks to determine how much capital a bank must provide for a loan. The riskier a loan is, the bigger capital a lender must set aside as part of a stricter capital adequacy ratio implemented starting 2001.

Running meat

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ELECTIONS are just around the corner (President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue and Roxas Boulevard), and that's why somebody is worried about Sen. Noli de Castro.

Based on news reports, Gloriaetta seems to be down on her knees to force, compel, or oblige De Castro to agree to become her running mate in 2004.

At the same time, headlines are starting to frighten us again. It seems we are seeing the return of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

In this country, kidnappings are like fruits, they are available only at a certain time of the year. Kidnapping is always in season before elections.

Also in the business community, they are starting to agonize over the electric power situation, which is said to be nearing a full-blown crisis.

Amid all that, no wonder, the whole nation seems to be glued to Gloriaetta's frantic search for the answer to our problems—who should be her running mate. Wow!

* * *

SURE, the position of Vice President of the Republic is important to our wellbeing, because we need somebody to clown around in media every now and then.

I am sure that you had the time of your life, swelling with pride to be a Filipino, as you listened to the sound bites of Vice President Teofisto Guingona on television, remembering every single word he said, as the talked about ... well, whatever.

Maybe that's why Gloriaetta is desperately searching for her candidate for Vice President. She does not think of the position as a joke.

Unfortunately, some senators do not agree with her. They do not think that De Castro, a.k.a. Kabayan, should settle just for Gloriaetta's or anybody's running mate.

Precisely, the Gloriaetta camp is wooing the broadcast idol to their side, which means he goes under Gloriaetta, because they worry about him being on top.

De Castro is topping all surveys, both public and private.

* * *

AND so word goes around in business that a group of senators are actually pushing for De Castro as a presidential candidate.

For one, those senators are selling the idea to business groups, and therefore to the potential campaign donors, that only De Castro can beat FP "the King" J.

The box-office king may still decide to make the man named Band—Wrist Band—as his idol, and so he also wants to become President.

That's why, the Gloriaetta camp is jumping the gun (Smith and Wesson) on the supporters of Kabayan in the Senate.

Even Senate President Franklin Drilon, who already positioned himself as a vice presidential aspirant, announced to media it was a "done deal," meaning, De Castro's running as Gloriaetta's mate.

* * *

BUT from what I gathered, at least from those close to De Castro, the man is hesitant to run for President, or even Vice President, because of that supposed "done deal."

Nobody knows if indeed De Castro made a deal with Gloriaetta, but the implication is bad for his political plans in the future.

Having been a longtime employee of ABS-CBN, as its Filipino news anchor man, De Castro is uncomfortable with the Lopez tag.

It's as if De Castro owes everything that he is to the ABS-CBN owners, and therefore they can control him, which I think is unfair to both him and the Lopezes.

Drilon insinuated, for instance, that Gloriaetta already got De Castro, in exchange for this cute administration's help for the troubled Lopez companies.

See, if you were De Castro, you would also feel like a political-business pawn. Me, having known him personally, I must give De Castro more credit than that.

* * *

FOR it's all just politics at this point. Drilon wanted to be in De Castro's position, but he could not, so he tried to put down his own colleague in the Senate.

Gloriaetta also never thought highly of De Castro, but this son of his mother was topping all the surveys, even those conducted by Malacañang privately, and so she wanted him badly.

What explains such a phenomenal rise of De Castro in the political scene in just a few months that he now figures even in the race for the presidency?

Most probably it is that same thing which catapulted Wrist Band to the national political scene—mass appeal. And like it or not, that's politics!

Mass appeal may not be entirely bad for us, because today we need a leader—and not an executive. We need somebody to rally us, who are mostly poor (as in "masa"), behind a vision for the country.

Does De Castro have a vision for the nation? Nobody knows, precisely because he is not talking, precisely because of all the put-down tactics used against him. This guy is dog meat even before he can run.

* * *

FELIPE Gozon, chair and president of GMA-7, the second largest network in the country, is losing sleep over the investigative magazine program Probe Team.

After Gozon decided to ax the show, the Probe Team people went to media, claiming in effect that Gozon tried to muscle them into submission, and when he could not, he got rid of them.

That is, in other words, nothing but despicable censorship!

That's why Gozon told me he had to clear up matters in media. He said he could not allow GMA-7 to lose its credibility because of the Probe Team issue.

But, attorney, why talk to me? Because, he said, I knew everybody in the GMA-7 news and public affairs departments, and so I could check the facts. Ehem! Okay, so I got sucked in!

* * *

WELL, the falling out between the Probe Team people and the GMA-7 management had something to do with a Probe Team report on Ephraim Genuino, chair of the government casino monopoly Pagcor.

When GMA-7 did not show that particular episode, the Probe Team went to media to cry censorship.

It so happened that GMA-7 showed the episode the following week. The Probe Team people claimed in media that the original version and the shown version were one and the same.

And so I got copies of the scripts for both versions. Believe me, in this racket of ours, there is no way you can say, if you are a serious racketeer, that the two versions were the same.

* * *

THE version that was shown, actually, qualified the claim of the reporter, Bernadette Sembrano, that Genuino was hiding his investments in several firms.

The second version admitted that the SEC records on those firms were incomplete and not up-to-date, and so it was not clear whether or not Genuino still had interests in them.

That, according to Gozon, was simply what he wanted, because it was fair to Genuino, and it conformed to GMA-7 standards.

But then reports also said, quoting Probe Team people, that Genuino already knew beforehand that the original version would not be shown, because his PR supposedly told the staff not to bother to tape the episode.

The truth is, up to 11 p.m. on that day, Gozon and GMA-7 public affairs head Marissa Flores were burning the telephone line, trying to find a way to show the episode.

When no compromise was reached, Gozon ordered to delay the showing, until the Probe Team could qualify their claim.

In fact, according to the GMA-7 technical guys on duty that night, the show was delayed by several minutes. They still had to look for a replacement at the last minute.

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(5)	5TH PRIZES	7,500 each
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(15)	7TH PRIZES	6,500 each
(16)	8TH PRIZES	6,000 each

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Local coffee chain eyes 4 stores abroad

By Michelle V. Remo

FILIPINO-OWNED coffee chain Figaro Coffee and Co. is planning to put up four more stores abroad to continue its international expansion initiative, according to Figaro president and chief operating officer Pacita Juan.

The company official said the four countries considered by Figaro for its international expansion next year were China, India, Dubai and Thailand. The four will be an addition to Figaro's first foreign branch in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong, which was established in 2001.

Juan said Figaro would invest an estimated P50 million for its planned international expansion next year. She said construction of one store costs about P10 million to P11 million.

Juan added that should the four international stores to be established next year gain patronage among locals, Figaro would expand to more countries. She said other countries being considered by the company were Japan, Sweden, Taiwan, Denmark and Germany.

"We are really inspired to open stores abroad because doing so boosts the pride of Filipinos. Seeing a Filipino brand being patronized by foreigners shows the kind of product the Philippines has to offer," Juan said in a press briefing.

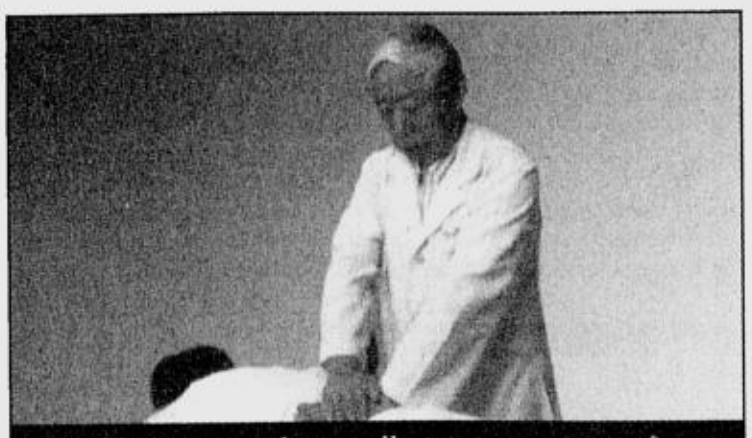
While targeting to put up more stores abroad, Figaro is also

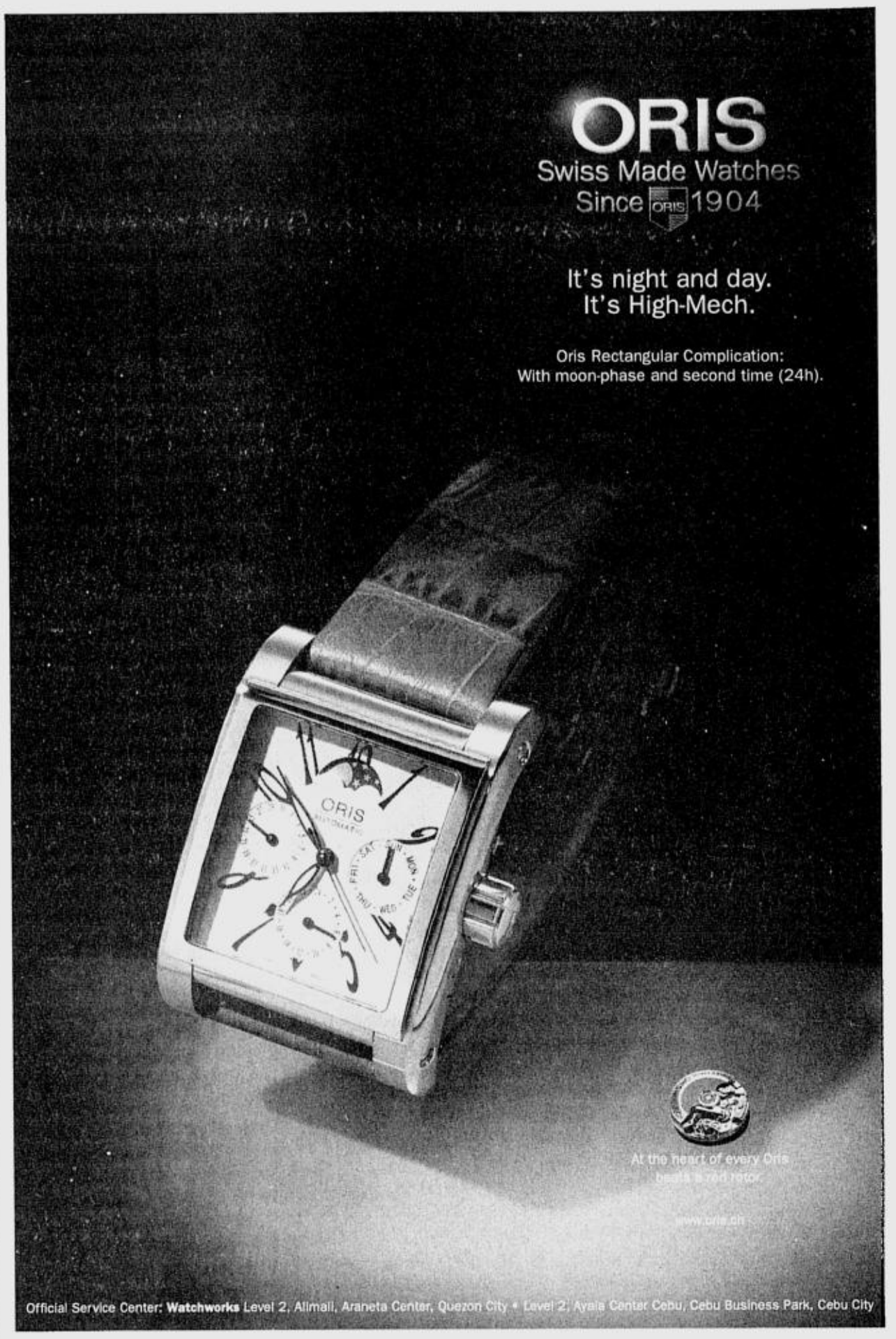
LOCAL/ B9

ATTENTION: ECS Desknote Patrons

In reference to ECS Desknote Ad, which appeared last Monday, 17th of November 2003 of the Business Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, we would like to clarify a sorry-miscue on our part re: the memory specifications of ECS Desknote A907, indicated therein is 256MB SDRAM (SODIMM) that should have been 128MB SDRAM only and Desknote A928, indicated therein is 256MB SDRAM that should have been 256MB DDR.

We apologize for the confusion that the ad may have brought about. Nevertheless, we thank you for your continued support.





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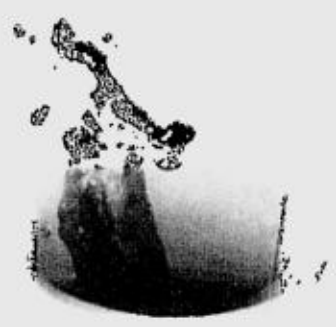

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BSP chief says PBCom, Prudential remain 'stable'

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday dispelled rumors that mid-sized lenders Philippine Bank of Communication and Prudential Bank were experiencing financial problems.

He said shareholders of PBCom have committed to infuse P3 billion in the next 10 to 20 days.

"Both banks have not come to us for any rehab or financial assistance. They are quite stable. In the case of PBCom, the shareholders are of substantial means so I have no reason to doubt their commitment," the Central Bank governor said.

PBCom president Isidro Alcantara said the bank "continues to be in good shape." Asked why a P3-billion infusion was needed, Alcantara said it should improve profitability.

"As for Prudential, from what I understand is that the problem was resolved when majority shareholders bought out the Tibayan Group," Buenaventura said.

Well-placed sources said early this week that 16th-largest PBCom had sought a P10-billion assistance from the BSP and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. while 17th-largest Prudential Bank was reportedly advised by regulators to avail itself of about P3 billion in standby credit from the BSP. Both banks are listed.

PBCom is controlled by the families of Nubla, Luy and Chung while Prudential is owned by the Santos family, which also runs an aquaculture business.

PBCom also ran to the BSP for assistance in year 2000 when it was hit by heavy withdrawals following the closure of Urban Bank in April that year. Buenaventura said PBCom shareholders had put up additional equity that time.

Prudential vice president Horatio Santos denied that the family-owned bank sought financial assistance from the BSP.

"We asked for a longer period to stagger loan losses just like other banks. In the course of the discussion, the BSP asked us to apply for a standby line just in case we need it. But we asked them, what for. Even at the height of our problems related to the Tibayan Group, we never asked for BSP assistance which even at that time they were offering," Santos said.

As of the third quarter, PBCom's NPLs stood at P6.37 billion or 28.26 percent of total loans while Prudential Bank's NPL ratio was at 38.26 percent.

MOST PROMISING RETAILER
Beauty Bar, represented by Store Specialists EVP Anton Huang (fourth from left), was awarded the 2003 Most Promising Retailer (Fashion) by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailer (OFR) Awards Night in Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. Also in photo are (from left) PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, finalist InStyle represented by assistant manager Evita Ventura, Assistant Trade Secretary Norman Hocson, Philippine Daily Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, finalist Essenses represented by Rustans director Vida T. Estrella and SM SVP Jorge T. Mendiola.

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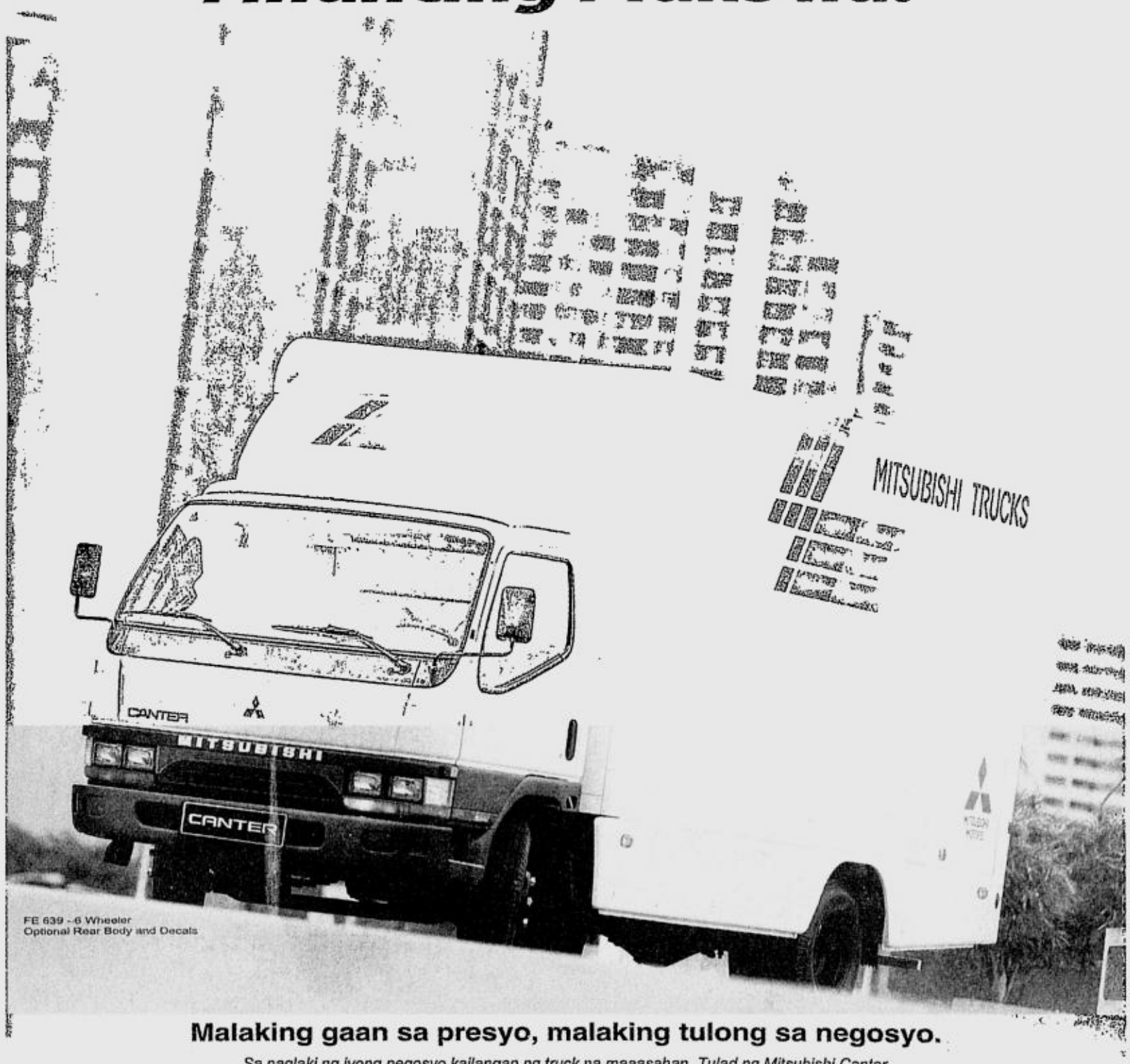

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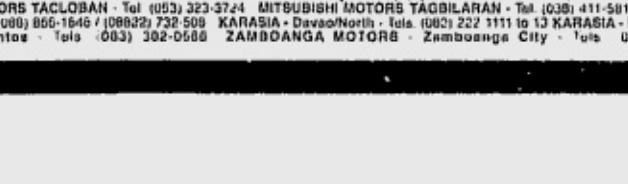

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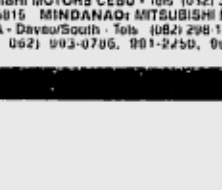

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FE 639	850,000	135,000	33,138	23,706	19,128

Low Monthly Plans / Zero Interest Plans

50% DP	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.
370,000	31,426	21,569	17,076	12,215	9,856
425,000	35,417	24,042	19,039	13,620	10,990

All Plans Subject to Bank Approval.

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FUSO

Asiatrust eyes sale of ₱400M in seized assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

ASIATRUST Development Bank, a publicly listed thrift bank largely owned by the Garcia family, plans to dispose of P300 million to P400 million in non-performing assets to a special purpose vehicle.

In an interview yesterday at the sidelines of the bank's annual stockholders' meeting, Rogerio Panlasigui, Asiatrust senior vice president and financial re-engineering group head, said that management was in preliminary talks with local groups that would set up the SPV to acquire some of the thrift bank's real and other property owned or acquired (ropoa) and non-performing loans.

Successful sale of the bank's bad assets to an SPV would ultimately depend on pricing. Panlasigui pointed out that the prices being offered by some foreign investment firms to other banks would likewise be too low for Asiatrust at around 20 centavos for every peso of asset but the bank was prepared to take "reasonable losses" because the SPV incentives allowed banks to defer losses over a seven-year period.

The bank sees a sale being consummated possibly as early as January next year to sometime before the end of June.

Globe, MCI solve rate dispute

GLOBE Telecom and US carrier MCI have reached an interim commercial agreement on termination rates for US-Philippine traffic.

The interim agreement continued to allow MCI to terminate traffic on direct circuits with Globe. Gil Genio, head of carrier services at Globe Telecom, said the interim agreement was an important first step to normalizing the relationship between the parties, subject to the lifting of the stop-payment order issued by the International Bureau of the US FCC.

The US FCC issued an order last March 10 prohibiting US carriers from paying Philippine carriers on the basis of a petition by AT&T alleging that local firms had "whipsawed" US carriers when they raised their termination rates to all their interconnect parties throughout the world. Termination rates are the fees charged by Philippine carriers to their foreign counterparts for terminating calls to the Philippines through their gateways.

Microfinance lending unit set

By Christine A. Gaylican

PLANTERS Development Bank has taken a big leap into microfinancing and established the Davao-based Microenterprise Bank that will directly lend to small borrowers such as vendors and *sari-sari* store owners.

Microenterprise Bank, according to Plantersbank bank president and chief operating officer Ma. Flordelis F. Aguenza, would offer loans ranging from P2,000 to as much as P500,000 with no collateral.

"Microenterprise Bank has a different approach to micro-lending that distinguishes it from the traditional banking done with the main bank," she explained.

Only a year in operation and with three branches in Davao City and Tagum, Davao del Norte, Microenterprise Bank already has 4,000 outstanding borrowers and a high repayment rate of 97 percent.

"It is a major poverty alleviation mechanism and it allows the small borrowers to have access to loans and they need not be preys to loan sharks," she noted.

The success achieved by its three branches in Davao has encouraged Plantersbank to put up other branches in General Santos City and Zamboanga City next year.

Microenterprise Bank charges two to three percent a month in interest. Aguenza admitted that they charge higher interest rates to cover the higher overhead and supervision costs of lending to smaller accounts.

"In general, our market accepted the higher rates because of the value-added services we provided on top of the financing," she noted.

GMA endorses 'Brand Philippines' campaign

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo said the country's growth remains among the top achievements of the Asia-Pacific region when she endorsed a proposal from the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress to fuse all corporate projects under a "Brand Philippines."

The national marketing logo "Brand Philippines" was first broached during the 17th PAC in Cebu City two years ago, but never took off.

ABS-CBN Chair Eugenio Lopez III, this year's ad congress chair, said "for a country emblazoned with big ideas, there are infinite possibilities" in the "Brand Philippines" concept.

The President, however, clarified in a press conference, that her speech simply provided "Brand Philippines" with ideas about what to "sell" to the world.

"Brand Philippines" reverses the stigma associated with the catch phrase "Only in the Philippines" by employing all of the country's creative minds in packaging skills, art forms and products under a single benchmark.

Ms Macapagal said "Brand Philippines" was a convenient solution because the brisk business now being shown by various surveys suggested that it now would be a good time to launch an aggressive packaging campaign.

Consumer spending, she said, is at an all-time high in the country, which accelerated gains in both the telecommunications and retail industries.

"This once basket case of Asia is posting this year a growth that is number six overall among the 21 economies of the Asia Pacific," she said.

"It is, in fact, our highest growth since the Asian (currency) crunch of 1997. That performance owed much to the increased marketing activity in telecommunications, and the obviously positive consumer confidence shown by the growth of retail," she said.

"Historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors," she said. But the country's economic problems cannot be blamed on any single president because the problems are fundamental," she said.

Citing her "strong republic" agenda, the President said her career as president for two-and-a-half years has given her "a learning curve that

GMA/ B7

PRESIDENT Macapagal checks out the **INQUIRER** booth during the opening of the 18th Advertising Congress in Baguio City.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI-NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Killer virus threatens poultry firms

SAN JOSE, Batangas—A killer virus is spreading like wildfire in this town, threatening to wipe out the local poultry industry.

Known as the "Egg Basket of Luzon," this town's poultry industry was dealt a severe blow by the highly contagious laringo-tracheitis (ILT) virus, an airborne herpes virus that kills chicken in just six to 12 days.

The ILT is a contagious respiratory disease, which is characterized by gasping, neck extension and conjunctivitis (inflammation of the membrane around the eye).

The ILT virus can live for up to 8 to 10 days in droppings and up to 70 days in carcasses.

It is believed that the virus may survive for up to 80 days in the tracheal exudate (mucus from throat) if not disturbed.

The virus has caused a number of poultry raisers to either decrease production or totally stop the business.

Although members of the poultry business community—including farm-owners, feed-millers, feeds and animal health suppliers, veterinarians, and even veterinary medicine students—were aware of the first outbreak of the virus as early as July 2001, the country's biggest college of veterinary medicine still allowed an Indonesian graduate student to import an even stronger strain of the virus from Indonesia and Japan.

The result was an even bigger outbreak that egg producers now fear might wipe out the entire poultry industry in this town, and worse, could spread to the rest of the country.

Losses

A veterinarian and poultry owner, Antoliano Alday, first noticed the colds symptoms in some of the chickens in his poultry farm as early as July 2001.

"After one chicken died from that disease, in a matter of 14 days, 25 more died," Alday said, "That time, I still wasn't sure if it was ILT virus. But I heard that in other farms, about 30 percent of the chickens on the egg-laying stage had died. In worse cases, the secondary infection resulted in complications that forced some poultry owners to stop the business."

Even chickens in the pre-laying stage at 17 weeks were affected.

The decline in the operations of big poultry raisers with a population of about 50,000 egg-laying chickens resulted in a big slump in the industry.

Cause

Records from the Batangas Egg Producers' Association (Bepa) showed that the ILT virus outbreak was reported from S.F. Legaspi Farm in Bulacan and on Oct. 12, 2001, from Virtucio farm in Batangas.

The tissue samples of the chickens that died of the same cause were submitted to the University of Georgia for ILT testing.

The tissue samples were tested positive for ILT.

On April 2002, four more big poultry farms in San Jose were reported to have signs of ILT virus.

Same outbreaks were also reported in Minalin town in Pampanga, the town of Victoria in Laguna, and the provinces of Isabela and Bacolod.

In worst cases, when the ILT virus hits small or backyard poultry farms, about 70 percent of the chickens die and the raiser has no choice but to close down the business.

The search for a cure was one of the battle-cries of the poultry raisers during the town's first Sinuam Egg Festival held last April 24 to 26.

The three-day egg festival was also meant to create awareness among the people of the importance of the industry in the country's food security.

"We were only able to import the vaccine in July 2003 through the exclusive distribution of Schering Plough," Alday said.

Schering Plough is an international animal health company based in New Jersey, USA, which distributed vials of the vaccine for P750 each. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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- *20 GB HDD*
- *CD-ROM*
- *14.1 inch TFT display*
- *Integrated modem/Ethernet LAN*
- *Norton Antivirus OEM Edition*
- *Rapid Restore Ultra for one-button back-up & recovery of your data*
- *1-year carry-in warranty*

FREE 128MB RAM!
PhP69,900.00†

IBM ThinkPad R40e *(2684-AA5)*
System Specifications:
- *Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.2GHz-M*
- *Microsoft® Windows® XP Home*
- *256 MB RAM*
- *30 GB HDD*
- *CDRW / DVD combo drive*
- *14.1 inch TFT display*
- *Integrated modem/Ethernet LAN*
- *Norton Antivirus OEM Edition*
- *Rapid Restore Ultra for one-button back-up & recovery of your data*
- *1-year carry-in warranty*

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Also Available:
IBM ThinkPad G40 *(2388-5LA)*
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25M:5M DP 20M Bal 5yrs
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA240m²
FA323/m² 2Bdrms 1T&B
P1.2M Vic/Gie8903461loc27

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950T 2BR 2STY 8054685

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MARIKINA

Meteor Homes, Parang 5BR
2TB LA245 1.5neg 947-6862

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Binan 3T/mo 25yrs 9390299

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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930T nr UST 0920-8309744

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nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

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•2BR New 65.8sqm -Mand.
2.1M 2TB 1MR 09165945185

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QUEZON CITY

Per Unit 2 Storey Apartment
Newly Renovate all con-
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QC T9306106

LOT

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HOUSE & LOT

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The AFP Logistics Center will conduct a Pre-Auction/Pre-Qualification conference for the sale through public auction of one (1) lot assorted salvage/junk vehicles and assorted scraps and residues of QM, Ordnance, Engineer, Signal, Medical & Dental Items located at MSU Cebu AFPLC, Cebu City under AFPLC ITB No 2003-002 on "As-Is, Where Is" basis on 28 November 2003 at 10.00 a.m. at the Military Supply Unit Cebu, Arellano Boulevard, Cebu City.

Interested buyers may secure their Bid Forms at the Office of MSU Cebu, Cebu City. Point of Contact: LTC ROMEO A DIGNOS (QMS) PA at 413 2618 (Globe) or in Manila PRDD, Supply Depot, AFPLC. Point of Contact LTC JOEL I ENRILE (QMS) PA, Commanding Officer, Supply Depot, AFPLC at PLDT Tel. Number 911-6761 and 911-6001 loc 4433 and 4455 (PRDD)

(Sgd.) ALFREDO M ANDRES
LTC (GSC) PA
Chairman, AFPLC
Disposal Committee

(PDI - Nov. 22, 23 & 24, 2003)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of TRI-O REALTY, INC. shortening the term of its existence up to June 30, 2003 thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been approved by its Board of Directors.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same at 374 Columbia St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) MA. ADELA M. SANTOS
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2003)

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w/ Exp. w/ Good Pay!
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NOTICE: THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW THAT GAY NELL SUEN PIOQUINTO AND MOISAM NELL SUEN PIOQUINTO PERTAIN TO ONE AND THE SAME PERSON

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. FRANCISCO E. GARCIA & MANUELA M. DE GARCIA; Sps. LUIS M. GARCIA & ROSARIO T. GARCIA; and MA. RITA GARCIA-ESPINOSA were settled extrajudicially by their respective heirs as per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition among the respective heirs of the estates of deceased Sps. Francisco E. Garcia and Manuela T. Garcia, Sps. Luis M. Garcia and Rosario T. Garcia and the latter's daughter Ma. Rita Garcia-Espinosa, Doc. No.695, Page No.150, Book No.3 Series of 2003 before Levy V. Fernandez, Notary Public of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov. 8, 15 & 22, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DOMINADOR ARCETA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 264 Page No. 53 Book No. II Series of 2001 of Notary Public Benjamin Mogpo, Jr. of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov 15, 22 & 29, 2003

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Jaguar sees higher sales in '04 as it lowers prices

By Michelle V. Remo

JAGUAR Philippines Inc., the local distributor of the European luxury car line, expects to increase sales next year to as many as 180 units, due to the reduction in its selling prices by as much as P4 million.

Wellington Soong, chair and president of Jaguar Philippines, said potential car buyers have shed their wait-and-see attitude following the enactment of the new excise tax law on automobiles, which allowed it to lower the price of its top-of-the-line car models.

WELLINGTON C. Soong, chair and president of Jaguar Philippines Inc. poses with the new, redesigned Jaguar XJ series car during its launch in their head office in Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. The new series adopted the aluminum monocoque chassis used by the aerospace industry. Prices for the new XJ will range from the P5.5M for the base model up to approximately P8.0M for the XJR. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

With the new auto excise tax, Soong said, the price of Jaguar's XK series went down to P8 million from P12 million, while that of its XJ models dropped to P7.8 million from P11.5 million.

The price of its S-type cars went down to P3.3 million from P4.6 million while the price of its entry level models was kept at P2.1 million.

"There is now a more defined behavioral pattern of the market. As the market matures next year, we see more purchasers of these car models," said Soong during the launching of its XJ series of car models last Thursday.

He added that the company also expected higher revenue next year due to the lighter tax burden.

The previous 100-percent tax imposed on its top-of-the-line models has been reduced to only 60 percent, he said.

Soong said Jaguar Philippines has sold about 140 car units during the first nine months of the year.

Soong said the company also expected to generate significant revenue from its newly launched XJ series—which includes the XJ6 3.0, XJ8 3.5, XJ8 4.2 and XJR 4.2. These models sell for between P5.5 million and P8 million.

He remained optimistic despite the expected election jitters next year.

"The worst-case scenario will be a deferment in purchases until after the elections," he said.

He said, however, that recent kidnapping cases would impact on company sales, because some people may be discouraged to buy luxury cars as these could invite the attention of kidnappers.

"We believe if the element (of kidnapping) does not exist, we will have bigger market for luxury cars," he said.

GMA endorses 'Brand Philippines' . . .

From page B5

taught me that we need five fundamental reforms."

Ms Macapagal said key reforms should apply to the market, agriculture, the country's social assets (land, credit and minimum basic needs), the bureaucracy and the country's protective institutions (law enforcement).

"I am proud of our market successes on the macroeconomic front. Our growth rate is steady, our inflation has been kept under control, the budget deficit has been kept within manageable levels, (and) fiscal performance has improved," she said.

Ms Macapagal added that both the broadcast and Internet bandwidths "became cheaper and more accessible under my administration."

"We need structural reforms for the government to broaden its fiscal controls and capabilities, provide the infrastructure needed to leverage the nation's competitive advantages, and promote a business-friendly environment based on good governance and a strong, deep financial and banking system," she said.

The President said the country needs to "liberate" the farm trade through reforms because the farms are where "the keenest struggle for survival takes place."

Ms Macapagal had been the target of numerous protest rallies by farmers' groups due to the impact of imported vegetables on domestic products.

"We must put real wealth in the hands of our farmers by legislating the acceptability of farmland as collateral," she said.

But she stressed that charter amendments remains a vital reform tool to generate good business.

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2003	BMW 318i	Orient Blue	Black Fabric	10k	1,690,000.00	Sold
2003	BMW 318i	Steel Gray	Black Fabric	10k	1,690,000.00	Sold
2003	BMW 318i Exec	Oxford Green	Black Leather	13k	1,950,000.00	
2002	BMW 325i	Oxford Green	Beige Leather	17k	2,100,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	9k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	9k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Black Sapphire	Beige Leather	9k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 525i Exec	Chiaretto Red	Beige Leather	7k	2,850,000.00	Sale Pending
2003	BMW X5 3.0d Exec	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	1k	4,380,000.00	Sale Pending

Other Pre-Owned BMWs

Year	Model	Color	Interior Color	Mileage	Price	Status
1996	BMW 316i	Cosmos Black	Black Fabric	47k	620,000.00	Sold
1997	BMW 316i	Boston Green	Black Fabric	100k	650,000.00	
1997	BMW 316i	Alpine White	Black Fabric	60k	680,000.00	Sold
1996	BMW 523i	Arktis Silver	Black Leather	80k	1,350,000.00	Sale Pending
1997	BMW 523i	Aspen Silver	Black Leather	50k	1,450,000.00	
1999	BMW 520i	Arktis Silver	Black Leather	19k	1,875,000.00	

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New Canon PictBridge Photo Printers
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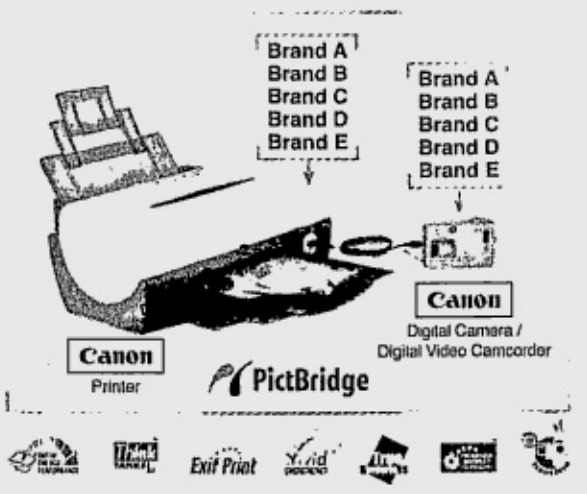
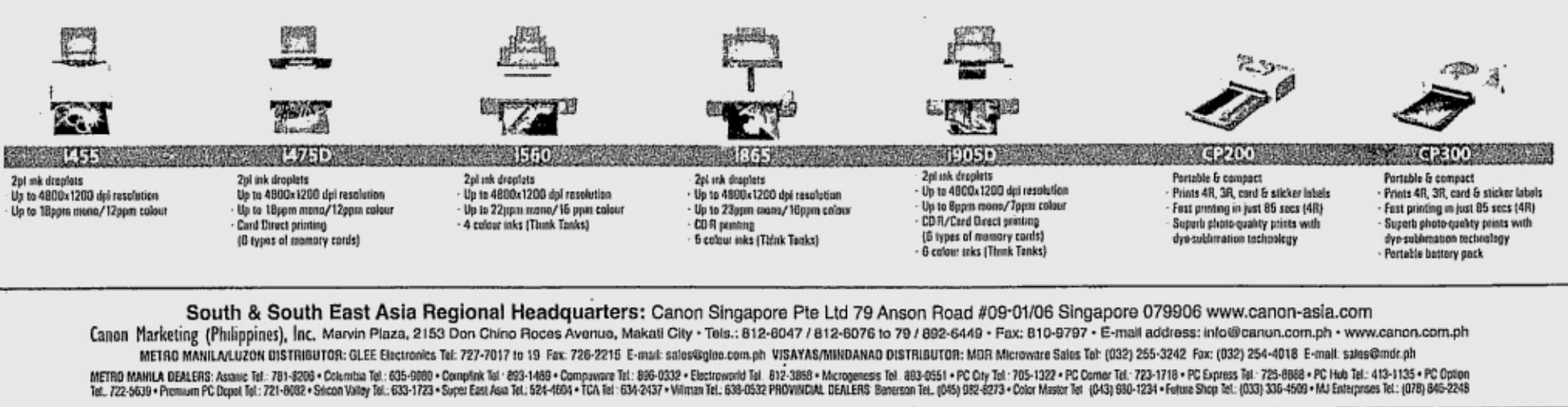
Canon was the first to offer Camera Direct, allowing you to connect your Canon Digital Camera directly to your Canon printer. Now, Canon's latest photo printers feature PictBridge, a new industry standard that allows any PictBridge-compatible digital camera or digital video camcorder to be directly connected. The quality and convenience of Canon photo printers are now available to all. Make a direct connection with the new Canon iSeries printers, which produce MicroFine 2 picolitre ink droplets for exceptional detail. Coupled with 4800 x 1200dpi, speeds of up to 23 ppm monochrome / 16 ppm colour, and loads of creative software, the iSeries is your bridge to exceptional digital photographs. Or you can connect to the portable CP dye-sublimation printers to get instant photographs. Whatever digital camera you use, now you can cross the bridge to Canon digital photo perfection. PictBridge...no barrier!





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METRO MANILA/LUZON DISTRIBUTOR: GLEE Electronics Tel: 727-7017 to 19 Fax: 726-2215 E-mail: sales@glee.com.ph VISAYAS/MINDANAO DISTRIBUTOR: MDR Microware Sales Tel: (032) 255-3242 Fax: (032) 254-4018 E-mail: sales@mdr.ph

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Fernwood inauguration party and wedding fair

FERNWOOD Gardens introduces its new cupola-style rain-free sky dome when it launches its new function areas during its inauguration party and wedding fair on Nov. 22 to 23. Soon-to-wed couples may avail of special discounts and great bargains while families and individuals may treat themselves to the visual delights of this venue, as well as other highlights and surprises of the event. For details call 756-5120/365-8548. Admission is free.

Jag-Kamikazee Campus Tour

JAG JEANS and Warner Music Phils is all set to storm Metro Manila campuses and lend the trademark sounds of Kamikazee in the Jag-Kamikazee Campus Tour. The tour will rock the campus halls of Jose Rizal University on Nov. 22, Arellano University on Nov. 28, Ama University QC on Dec. 11, and PCU on Dec. 12. Premium giveaways will also be prized off to Jag and Kamikazee games and trivia winners.

Countdown Smash@Ultra

COUNTDOWN PLC invites the public to the much - awaited entrepreneurship bazaar entitled Countdown Smash@Ultra to be held on Nov. 22 to 23 at the Ultra track and field oval. The two-day event is a unique festival that combines Filipino tradition, contemporary European style and Latino ambience. Lucky guests can win prizes like hotel accommodation, personal insurance packages, appliances, special vacation trips, etc. Children ages 12 and below can enter for free.

The Grand Wine Experience

THE BIGGEST and grandest wine tasting affair in the country dubbed "The Grand Wine Experience 3" will take place on Nov. 22, 6 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila. Ralph's Wines and Spirits, Smart Communication and the Philippine Wine Merchants will showcase 400 different wines from the best vineyards and wineries from 12 participating countries. Call Ralph's Wines & Spirits at 853-7421/831-9876/513-9676 to 77.

1st Philippine Death Care Industry Exhibit

AN EVENT dedicated to the "Death Care Industry" will be presented at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Cente, Forbes Park, Makati City on Nov. 22 and 23. The theme of the event is "Silent Moments" and will showcase death care services and its allied industries. For more info call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879, or 820-1570.

SMPO premiers Kancheli symphony

THE SAN Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra presents the Philippine premiere performance of Giya Kancheli's Symphony No. 5 in a special concert at the Meralco Theater, Pasig City on Nov. 22. Ascending the podium to lead the SMPO is Baatarja Enkhbaatar, conductor of the Ural State Philharmonic Orchestra. For more information, call the 632-3698.

APEX WINS DIRECT LINK ACCOUNT

Apex Advertising Associates Inc, recently won another account in Direct Link Car Insurance. Shown from left are: Gregorio Poblador, first vice president and general manager of Direct Link Car Insurance and Rene Rodriguez, president and general manager of Apex Advertising after their contract signing.

Oro y Plata golden anniversary sale

IN CELEBRATION of its golden anniversary, Oro y Plata considered to be world class makers of fine handcrafted jewelry, will open its doors to the public for a month long sale. Exquisite pieces ranging from precious stones and natural pearls in some of the finest handmade settings in the county will be on sale for up to 40 percent off. Oro y Plata has been at the forefront of customized handmade jewelry for 50 years. This will be the first time that the company will open it's doors to the public. With an outstanding record of the painstaking craftsmanship and attention to detail, each piece from Oro y Plata are works of art that are instant heirloom pieces. Oro y Plata is located at the ground floor, Narra Bldg., 2276 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for its bidding for:

1 lot ANALOG VOIP ADAPTERS, etc.

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Devt. Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:
1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) marked "received" by the BIR with the accompanying Audited Financial Statements
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients and reference, and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representatives of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agencies, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS.

The above-mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and properly tabbed Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

C. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents: December 5, 2003.
D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.
E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidders, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University.
F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address or call tel. no. 920-5374 (direct) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4230 and 4911.

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(PDI - Nov. 22 & 29, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of **Nine (9) units Asian Utility Vehicles** for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and its IRR, specifically in the enforcement of the Anti-Smoke Belching Campaign.

The approved budget for the contract to be bid is Six Million Seventeen Thousand Pesos (P6,017,000.00) from the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program (MMAQISDP) loan of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Eligibility screening is open to the following suppliers, manufacturers and/or distributors whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned:

a. Duly Licensed Individual/sole proprietorship;
b. Partnership or Corporations;
c. Manufacturers/suppliers/distributors forming themselves into a joint venture; and
d. Cooperative duly registered with Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)

Eligibility forms and other documents are available for issuance until the deadline on **08 December 2003, 3:00 P.M.** at the DOTC BAC for the Implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations Office, 16th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. Last day of submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be received not later than **11 December 2003, 10:00 A.M.** Opening of Eligibility documents will follow at 2.00 P.M. at the BAC Office.

Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of proposal documents starting on **22 December 2003 to 25 January 2004** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above Office and payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) in cash or manager's check payable to DOTC

Sealed bids shall be received at the BAC Office not later than **20 February 2004, 3:00 P.M.** at the same address. Opening of bid proposals shall be held immediately thereafter at the same office.

The DOTC-BAC for the implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer that may be considered most advantageous to the Government.

The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process

(Sgd.) ARTURO T. VALDEZ
Undersecretary for Transportation
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Nov. 22 & 27, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting Offers to Purchase on an "As Is - Where Is" basis the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
001-002	2 commercial lots, 318 & 736 sq.m. With titles	Phase II, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP10,000/sqm. & PhP15,000/sq.m.
003-028	25 commercial lots, lot sizes ranging from 240 sq. m. to 324 sq.m. With titles	Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Brgy. Tuburan, Ligao City, Albay	PhP1,540/sq.m. to PhP1,700/sq.m.
029	7,170 sq.m. titled commercial lot	Sea Breeze Homes Brgy. Sip-Ac Sorsogon City	PhP800/sq.m. or PhP5,736,000.00

Payment schemes for the above cited properties are cash, modified cash (6 equal installments without interest) and installment for a maximum period of ten (10) years with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the *Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COMBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)*, Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding Materials for Bicol properties can also be secured from the NHA Legaspi Project Office, 3rd Floor, ANST Bldg. 2, Rizal St. corner Rivera St., Old Albay, Legaspi City. For further inquiry, please contact the following persons: Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms Neri A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED. (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 253 & 254;

SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC BIDDING	PASIG	BICOL
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Nov. 24 to Dec. 3, '03 Office Hours, CIED-NHA Bldg. Elliptical Road, Quezon City	Nov. 24 to Dec. 10, '03 Office Hours, NHA Legaspi Project Office
B. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 3, '03, 10:00 AM Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Q.C.	Dec. 10, '03, 10:00 AM NHA Legaspi Project Office
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	Dec. 5, '03, 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Dec. 12, '03, 8:00 - 10:00 AM NHA Legaspi Project Office
D. Opening of Sealed Bids	Dec. 5, 03, 1:30 PM Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Dec. 12, '03, 10:15 AM to 12:00 NN NHA Legaspi Project Office

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 22 & 29, 2003)

18th PAC Opens Sessions with Powerhouse Topics

THE 18TH Philippine Advertising Congress began its first five sessions with topics reminding delegates to go back to the basics of advertising and rediscover how the industry can provide value to consumers.

In his session titled "Big Ideas In Advertising," author and creative director of The Ball Partnership **Jim Aitchison**, said that consumers today are better educated, more marketing literate, and more cautious of the advertising they see. He said that advertising professionals must therefore understand brands, branding, and brand-building, each having its distinct characteristics that make for effective ads. Enlightening the delegates about the unchanging, universal truths in advertising, Aitchison noted that great ads are those that have local flavors and speak of what is true about one's culture.

"Be true to yourself and your culture. You (Filipino advertisers) have brilliant minds that can think of big ideas that are uniquely yours. Don't copy the west but look for ideas that are yours alone," he said

He stressed that advertisers should apply the Filipino culture in communicating the message in their ads and that they find things that will resonate the Filipino way of life. Aitchison also urged advertisers to etch "lovemarks" that elicit loyalty beyond reason and rethink existing marketing and advertising myths. He suggested several ways of how advertising messages can filter through the cage consumers build around themselves.

On the second session, J. Walter Thompson Malaysia managing director **Chris von Selle** gave valuable tips on how to facilitate the creative process in his topic "From Systems to Soul." He urged those in creative to relax so as to draw the best ideas from their subconscious; be naïve and ask fundamental questions as a child would do; be curious and get in direct touch with consumers; be a director and assemble together the right people for the task; and to be serious in the job because after all, humor is not the only emotion in advertising.

CNN Asia-Pacific president **Steve Marcopoto** who spoke on "International Media" on the third session, bared the trends in the US and Europe. He cited how new forms of technology such as video games, broadband internet access, HDTV, and the TiVo personal recorder are grabbing TV-viewing time and are giving advertisers alternative channels to place their ads. However, he left a message of hope saying that great ideas, great ads, and great programs can continue to arrest the attention of present viewers not withstanding these challenges.

The fourth session topic, "Quality Newspapers: The Search for a New Value Proposition" was tackled by print media veteran **Cyril Pereira**, chairman of Society of Publishers in Asia. Emphasizing the influence of print media, he said that quality press is the last bastion of public trust and that advertising in it bestows credibility on quality brands and messages. Deviating from the standard measurements of reach, circulation, and ad rates, Pereira pinpointed that trust is the foundation of print According to him, consumers are receptive and not cynical of commercial information in quality press, thus great newspapers are powerful brands. However, Pereira added that this media is now at a critical crossroad and that quality press has to find new value propositions for readers and advertisers alike.

For Campaigns and Grey founder **Yoly Ong** and ABS-CBN Foundation managing director **Gina Lopez** going back to the basics not only refers to marketing and advertising but also going back to fundamental human values. The session "Social Responsibility and Advocacy Advertising" challenged companies to look beyond their bottom line and craft their corporate soul.

In her presentation, Ong underscored the significance of advocacy or social marketing, which is now affecting the way consumers look at companies. She said that consumers are not just buying the products and services, nowadays, but are buying the company behind those products are services.

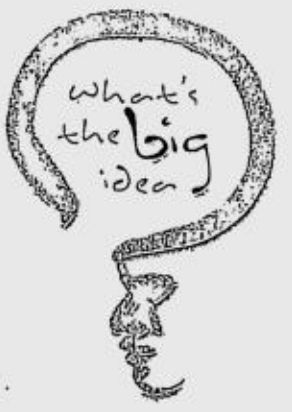
"Advocacy is for companies that have vision and leading-edge companies are believing that they have to have a corporate soul," Ong quoted Cone Inc. CEO Carol Cone.

At present, the most urgent advocacy of all, according to Ong, is the future of the Philippines, which she said is not making any improvement over the last 25 years due to many serious and perennial problems. She emphasized this point by citing several recent studies about the country's economic, political and social problems.

Lopez on the other hand, shared how companies who believe in the advocacy of ABS-CBN Foundation have helped its flagship programs achieve major success over the last years. Among these is the continuous outpouring of support to the projects of Bantay Bata, Bantay Kalikasan, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation in for the cause of education, livelihood and environmental protection.

CYRIL Pereira

YOLY Ong



CHRIS von Selle

GINA Lopez

JIM Aitchison

Araw Awards 2003 honors 'only' best works

ONLY the "best works" will triumph in the Araw Awards 2003 of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC), thus the number of awards are fewer than the previous Ad Congress. For the first time, the Araw Awards will be held in two nights of the much-awaited ceremonies, on November 21 and 22.

"Fewer finalists and awards will be given out this year, which is a sign that we are really more focusing on the best works," said 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) Creative Committee chairman David Guerrero, executive creative director of BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

The Creative Committee is the organizer of the Araw Awards, which acknowledges the best in Philippine advertising.

From over 3, 166 entries, 420 finalists passed the screening and 120 awards would be given away, approximately one-third only of that of the previous Ad Congress. Guerrero also emphasized that this year's Araw Awards has intensified the criteria for judging to enable the local ad industry to compete on a global scale. "We took the recommendations of the previous Ad Congress committee as we redefined the criteria for judging and introduced the Interactive and Design categories."

According to Guerrero, Araw Awards had overseas and local experts that comprised its board of judges. "We got acclaimed overseas directors and experts to judge our Araw Awards finalists."

With the Congress theme, 'What's the Big Idea?', Guerrero said that the organizing committee aims to provide the benchmark on which the advertising industry will begin to be able to compete in the international advertising arena." Getting judges from overseas will provide us the necessary benchmark on where we stand right now and to know where we should start."

The theme also emphasizes on the advertising industry's need to refocus on creative idea which is the key to success, according to Guerrero. He also added that objective of the Congress for the advertising industry to create ideas that can be used in other countries around the world. "We would like to make Filipino ideas to be good enough to be used in other countries. The speakers were also carefully chosen to meet the Congress' goals," he said.

Last night, winners on Radio, Interactive, Direct Marketing, Design and Broadcast Crafts categories were announced. While tonight, TV, Print, Outdoor, Multimedia, and Platinum Awards will be unveiled. Hosting last night's ceremonies were Mike Enriquez and Peter Musngi while presentors and performers were Ryan Agoncillo, Angelica Jones, and Ara Mina. Tonight, keynote speaker is Former Senator and Tourism Secretary Raul Roco, and as presentors and hosts are Korino Sanchez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Angel Aquino, Cindy Kurleto and Boy Abunda.

This year's Araw Awards ceremonies have the theme "Eleksyon", which is the most awaited grand entrance of the advertising agencies on the second night.

ADVT

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.5	17	17.5	8,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	44	43.5	44	165,100
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	18,880
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	34	34	9,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	240,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	26	26	39,300
Phil. Savings Bank	26	26	26	26	2,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	12,000
Security Bank Corp.	17	18	17	17.5	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1310	1310	1310	1310	1,160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	9,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	755	740	745	91,060
ISM Communications Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	18,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	3,110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	755	765	755	760	71,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	144,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	226,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	20.75	21.25	823,500
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	1,427,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	2,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	130,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	79,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	50,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	16,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	11,200
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	81,200
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	52,900
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	58,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.95	5	4.95	5	1,496,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.43	0.45	4,590,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	630,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.035	0.035	7,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	351,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	210,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,555,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,650,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.11	0.14	830,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.2	8	7.2	8	2,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	540,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	26	26	46,800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	5,800,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	140,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	860,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	230,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,571,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	78,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6,430,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,850,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	65,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	60,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,270,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	2,700,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000

Local coffee ...

From page B3

opening five local stores before the end of the year. These will be in Manila; Libis, Quezon City; Baguio; Sta. Rosa, Laguna; and Tagaytay. The company is investing P2 million to P6 million for the five branches, Juan said.

She added that Figaro would invest P20 million more for the construction of stores in Cagayan de Oro and Alabang in 2004.

While the company is receiving a lot of applications for franchise, Juan said the company was trying to limit the number of franchisees to a "manageable" number, adding Figaro wanted to make sure its standards were maintained in each of the stores.

Figaro, a leading locally-owned coffee chain, operates 35 stores in the country, 18 of which are franchise stores.

The 10-year-old coffee chain expects to double sales next year as management is confident the coffee industry still has a lot of market to penetrate. "The coffee business is encouraging because I believe it is brisk and is continually growing," Juan said.

CURRENCIES

November 21, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.639207788	1	55.289
Japan	Yen	0.007703	0.009179	0.5075
United Kingdom	Pound	1.430681	1.7048	94.2567
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108144	0.128864	7.1248
Switzerland	Franc	0.646091	0.769882	42.566
Canada	Dollar	0.644553	0.768049	42.4647
Singapore	Dollar	0.488622	0.582242	32.1916
Australia	Dollar	0.606671	0.722909	39.9689
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.226074	2.65259	146.659
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223801	0.266681	14.7445
Brunei	Dollar	0.487204	0.580552	32.0981
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000117	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021043	0.025075	1.3864
UAE	Dirham	0.228505	0.272287	15.0545
Euro	Euro	1	1.1916	65.8824
Argentina	Peso	0.291898	0.347826	19.231
Brazil	REAL	0.285154	0.339789	18.7866
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.1602	8.8573
India	Rupee	0.018368	0.021887	1.2101
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220874	0.263193	14.5517
Mexico	New Peso	0.074997	0.089366	4.941
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539614	0.643004	35.551
Norway	Kroner	0.12233	0.145768	8.0594
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014633	0.017437	0.9641
South Africa	Rand	0.12853	0.153156	8.4678
Korea	Won	0.000704	0.000839	0.0464
Sweden	Kroner	0.11133	0.132661	7.3347
Syria	Pound	0.016295	0.019417	1.0735
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024733	0.029472	1.6295
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000526	0.000627	0.0347

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 17, 10 a.m. at the Board Room, 24/F of San Miguel Properties Centre, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of December 3 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. will hold an investor briefing on Nov. 24, 10 a.m. at the Manansala Function room of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Pasig City. Also, the company will proceed with its convertible bond offering to its existing shareholders. Offer period is from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5, 2003.

***

BHI Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 18, 10 a.m. at the 22/F of the Pearlbank Centre, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 28 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 818,000 of its own shares at P1.32 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Stocks end . . .

From page B1

0.64 point or 0.08 percent to 824.67 points.

Traders said there might be a mild rally next month in selected issues, such as telecom-related stocks and in other big cap firms such as Ayala Corp., on optimism over sustained profit growth next year despite worries over next May's elections.

Turnover narrowed to P286.42 million from Thursday's P418.34 million. Losers were in a two-to-one majority.

PLDT added P15 or 2.01 percent to P760 on bargain hunting after the stock saw a hefty pullback from its peak of P845 earlier this month.

Globe Telecom, the country's second largest phone firm, slid P15 or 1.97 percent to P745. The stock hit a high of P840 in early November.

Power distributor Manila Electric Co.'s (Meralco) unrestricted "B" shares slid 25 centavos or 1.16 percent to P21.25 while its "A" shares, open only to local investors, were unchanged at P14. The energy regulator said the third phase of Meralco's court-mandated refund program, estimated to cost P4.9 billion, should allow its customers to have the option of being repaid in either cash or billing credits. *Reuters*

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Laguna de Bay among least affected by climate change

By Jerry Esplanada

OF THE 22 lakes and wetlands belonging to the prestigious Living Lakes global network, our very own Laguna de Bay faces the least risk from accelerating and possibly unprecedented climate change.

This was disclosed by Britain's Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research during the 8th Living Lakes international conference held recently in Norwich, England.

In a 51-page report titled "Climate Change: An Overview and its Impacts on the Living Lakes," the Tyndall Center says that by the 2070s all Living Lakes members will be considerably warmer during winter and summer months than at present.

But the average temperature in Laguna de Bay will increase by only 2.2 to 2.4 degrees Celsius. Its projected warming rate is slightly lower than the expected rise in the global mean temperature, according to the report.

The highest temperature change—6.7 degrees Celsius during winter—was projected to take place in the lake Peipsi-Vorstjarv region of Russia and Estonia.

Tyndall Center's temperature change projections for other Living Lakes members: Tengiz, Kazakhstan (an increase of 5.7 degrees Celsius); Baikal, Russia (5.6 degrees); Nestos, Greece (5.4 degrees); La Nava, Spain and Uluabat, Turkey (5.2 degrees); Milicz Pond, Poland (5 degrees); Columbia River Wetlands, Canada (4.9 degrees); Mono, California (4.7 degrees); Constance in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (4.6 degrees);

Poyang-hu, China (4.4 degrees); Dead Sea, Israel (4.2 degrees); Pantanal in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay (3.8 degrees); The Broads, England (3.6 degrees); Victoria in Uganda and Tanzania (3.5 degrees); Mar Chiquita, Argentina, Fuquene; Colombia and Chapala, Mexico (3.2 degrees); St. Lucia, South Africa (2.9 degrees); and Mahakam, Indonesia (2.5 degrees).

Ecology

Increase in rainfall

The Center says its report provided only preliminary investigation of climate change and how it will affect each lake system and that it was possible that climate may change more radically than suggested.

According to the report, only a small increase in rainfall will be experienced by the 90,000-hectare Laguna de Bay over the next 70 years.

The increase in precipitation will likely cause increases in lake level, inflows and outflows. Higher temperatures, however, may offset these increases, although increased cloudiness may make the effects on evaporation moderate.

The effects of higher temperatures on productivity in the lake may be important, the report said, but will occur alongside other pressures on water quality and productivity arising from changes in levels of pollutants.

Lake in trouble

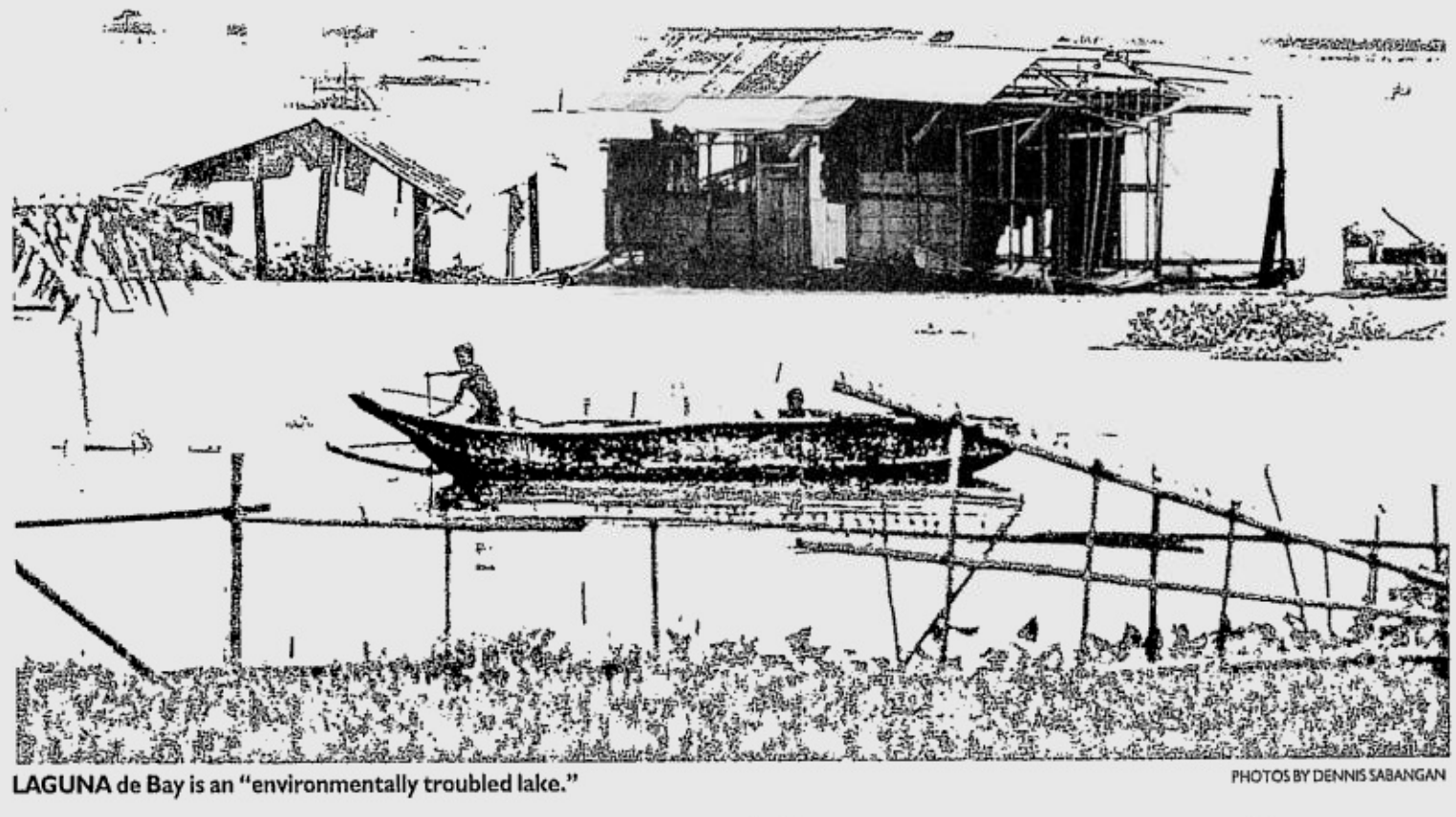
The Tyndall Center notes that while the lake's most dominant use is fisheries, "it also serves as a sink for solid and liquid wastes" from households, croplands, livestock and poultry farms and industries.

Calixto Cagtaquiz, general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority and one of the country's delegates to the Norwich conference, agrees that Laguna de Bay is an "environmentally troubled lake."

He says there was a need to develop and implement appropriate strategies to reduce the risks associated with climate change.

The LLDA, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands and Unilever Philippines are active partners in the tripartite body called Clear, which stands for Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources.

Laguna de Bay was admitted to Living Lakes in 2001 during the network's sixth international conference in Eastern Siberia, Russia.



LAGUNA de Bay is an "environmentally troubled lake." PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

Sex for heart patients

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

A FEW weeks ago, a patient who had a heart attack about a year ago called up to ask if he and his wife could engage in sex. He has been stable all this time and yet, because I had not given the go-signal, he thought it was still risky to engage in sex. I apologize for having goofed in that aspect of patient care and to do penance, I thought I should write on this topic and hope that all the other heart patients I forgot to discuss this with would be able to read it and hopefully forgive me for committing a grievous sin of omission.

Sexual activity is a concern both for patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) and their physicians. This problem becomes more significant among patients following a heart attack, which is no doubt a devastating event in most people's lives.

These patients often feel depressed, wondering if they will have to give up activities, including sex, that make life worth living. Telenovelas and other movies, which depict elderly men succumbing to a heart attack while having sex, unduly exaggerate the risk of sexual activity among heart patients.

No clear advice

After recovering from a heart attack, the average man has sex a lot less often because of the fear it might trigger another attack.

Healthcare professionals, including myself, may be partly to blame because 70 percent of heart attack victims are not given advice about lovemaking when they're discharged from the hospital. And in nine out of 10 cases, patients or their spouses are too shy to ask.

The good news is that once a person recovers from a heart attack, he does not have to forego sexual activity. After all, sex is no more strenuous than walking vigorously or climbing a flight of stairs.

Studies indicate that in most stable patients with CVD, sexual activity does not significantly increase the risk of a heart attack.

The risk for an attack during lovemaking is two in one million per hour among healthy middle-aged men or 20 in one million per hour in "high-risk" patients with heart disease.

Moderate exertion

Most ischemic episodes during sexual activity wherein the heart becomes deficient in oxygen and nutrients appear to be related to an increase in heart rate but this risk during sexual intercourse is quite low if the patient can perform a moderate level of exertion on an exercise stress test equivalent to 5-6 METS.

METS is a measure of energy and oxygen expenditure.

Exercise testing guides the physician in assessing the patient's capacity to perform activities and determining the risks associated with sexual activity. In patients with a recent heart attack or myocardial infarction (MI), the risk for MI during sex can be reduced through exercise training which is part of a comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation program.

Advice on sex

Although sexual activity is generally safe for stable patients with CVD, abstinence may have to be advised in the presence of circulatory instability including unstable angina (chest pains), uncontrolled hypertension, symptomatic heart failure (shortness of breath), recent heart attack (within the last two weeks), cardiomyopathy or flabbiness of the heart muscles, and significant or life-threatening irregular heartbeat.

If a patient still has qualms about doing it, heart experts offer the following advice:

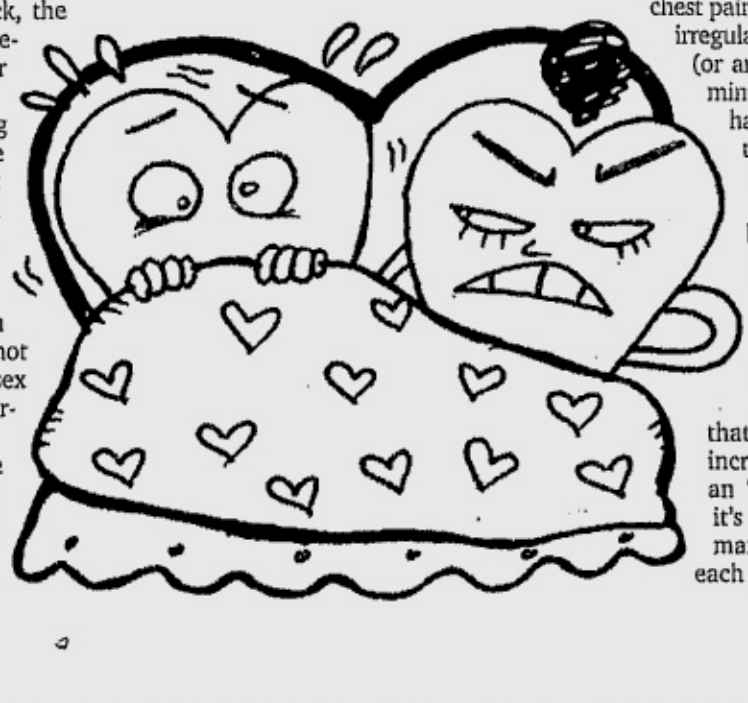
• **Take it slow.** Following a heart attack, one may have to take it easy during the recovery period, abstaining for the first three to six weeks, depending on how serious the heart attack was. One may start out with low-key but enjoyable contacts, such as kisses and caresses, gradually progressing to more intimate expressions as one's health and confidence grow.

• **Talk things out.** Couples are encouraged to talk about their fears. Sharing feelings and concerns will make the partners more relaxed and responsive. Patients and their spouses should not hesitate to talk to their doctors about any concerns or difficulties. Doctors oftentimes have too many things in their minds that they miss this important point.

• **Heed warning signs.** Your body will let you know if you're not up to it yet. As with any physical activity, you should pay attention to you body's signals. Red-flag signals include chest pain, extreme shortness of breath, or irregular heartbeat during sexual activity (or any other activity). Rest for a few minutes. Heart attack patients usually have small nitroglycerine tablets they can put under their tongue should they have chest pains.

An important precaution for heart patients is for them to engage in sex with their regular partner. For the majority of patients, monogamous sexual activity poses a very modest coronary risk.

A Japanese study has shown that the risk for another heart attack increases three-fold if it's done with an "unfamiliar" partner. I suppose it's a rational presumption that all married couples are familiar with each other.



New way to perk up teaching materials

By Charles E. Buban

A NEW educational aid package is now being experimented on in Malaysia, which might soon find its way in many schools worldwide.

The Epson Print@School was conceived to untangle the usual complexities associated with large format printing of posters and signs, which will enable school teachers to prepare sophisticated teaching materials with ease.

The package has three key components—a large format printer, training and a specially designed-for-teachers software for large format printing.

Easy to use

"The Epson Print@School software includes over 200 easy to use templates and over 400 clip arts that teachers can use to design educational posters and signs for the classroom and school," explained Epson Digital Image Division (Singapore) manager Shaun See.

By using the Epson Print@School, teachers can eliminate almost all manual processes involved and create signs and posters in only 20 minutes.

"Best of all, the Epson Print@School templates are designed to work with Microsoft Word—a widely used word processing software—that can tremendously help shorten the learning curve of teachers," See added.

Specially customized

The templates and clip arts in the software can be specially customized to suit the educational requirements of certain country and the Epson Print@School package can come with either Epson's Stylus Pro 4000 or 7600.

The Epson Print@School is targeted at primary schools, however, Epson revealed that it will soon launch a new version that is designed for secondary schools.

"From the enthusiastic response we've received from teachers who have tried the package, we believe Epson Print@School will change the way educational aids are produced, making them innovative and customized to each class," said See.

4 printers launched

In another development, Epson Philippines Corp. (EPC) recently launched four new printers, including an interesting all-in-one (AIO) unit targeted primarily at the digital and analog photography markets.

First unveiled last October in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, Epson Philippines now brings three new Stylus C series printers comprising the C63, C83 and CX5300 and the Perfection 1670 film and photo scanner.

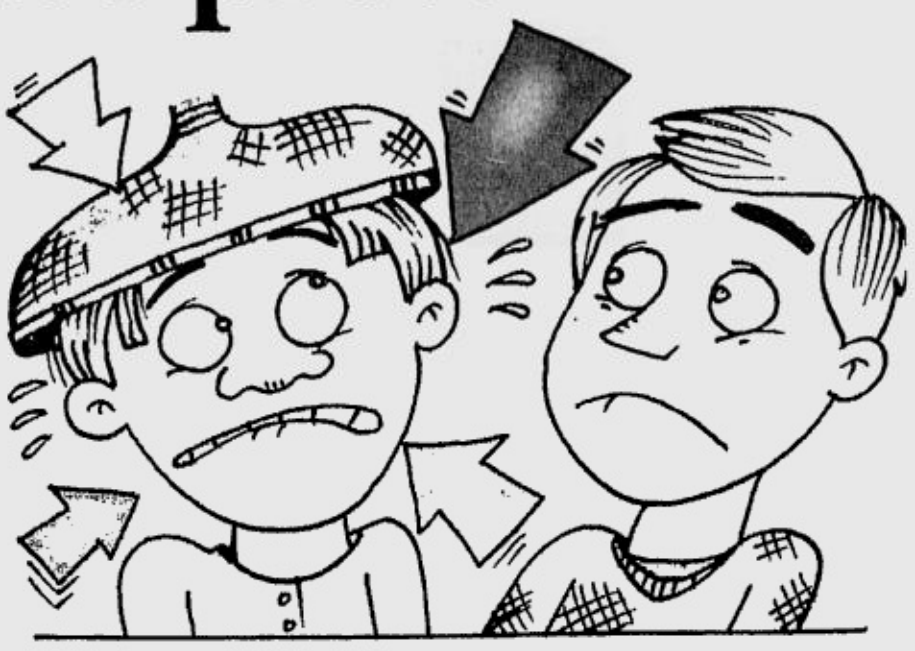
In keeping with its priority to keep quality high, the new units are improved in terms of ink droplet sizes—some shrunk down to 3 picoliters—and increased vertical resolution.

"The increased vertical resolution is in response to numerous consumer assessments and the three new Stylus C series printers now boasts an industry leading 1,440 dots per inch (dpi), way above the 1,200 dpi found on most competitor models," said EPC president Keita Fujiwara.

The Japanese manufacturer has also brought DURABrite (pigment-based) inks back into these new products, and has further made these more affordable for consumers through an INKdividual cartridge system and new low-cost DURABrite paper media.

Experts say diabetics must have protein test

By Charles E. Buban



A NEW study has revealed that Filipinos with Type 2 diabetes could be more prone than their counterparts in most parts of the world to developing life-threatening kidney disease and cardiovascular diseases.

The Developing Education on Microalbuminuria for Awareness of Renal and Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (Demand) study showed that an alarming 73 percent of Filipinos with Type 2 diabetes have a condition called microalbuminuria wherein a certain type of protein (albumin) leaks from the kidneys into the urine.

Microalbuminuria is an early warning sign to more serious forms of potentially life-threatening kidney disease and cardiovascular complications brought about by Type 2 diabetes.

In Type 2 diabetes, either the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin, which is what the body requires to use the sugar needed by the cells.

In the Demand study, 32,000 Type 2 diabetes patients in 34 countries were screened for microalbuminuria using the dipstick test method.

The results showed that the world average for microalbuminuria among Type 2 diabetes patients was 40 percent, compared to the Philippines' 73 percent.

'Vital to act now'

Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy, president of the Philippine Diabetes Association, said the results of the global study were alarming.

"It must not go unnoticed and it is vital to act now," Sy said.

She said more doctors and diabetic patients should be encouraged to demand for a microalbuminuria test so that appropriate actions can be taken to reverse the condition.

"Given the Philippine [study] results, screening for microalbuminuria should become essential. Checking diabetic patients for microalbumin is not as commonly done as we would like it to be," said Sy.

Dr. Libertad Rosales, Philippine Society of Nephrology president, said the dipstick test is an inexpensive, easy and rapid way to find out if one has microalbuminuria.

The strip, which costs about P16, changes color if traces of protein are detected.

"Type 2 diabetics should be aware that if they are treated early for microalbuminuria they can slow down the progressive process that leads to kidney failure," said Rosales.

Correlation established

The Demand campaign was conducted under the auspices of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) in partnership with Sanofi-Synthelabo.

The Philippine screenings were conducted last September in 30 hospitals in Metro Manila, Cebu, Tacloban, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

Results of the study were presented to the media last Wednesday.

The global study established a correlation between the prevalence of microalbuminuria as a risk marker for kidney and heart disease.

"The study also revealed that the prevalence of early signs of kidney disease among those with Type 2 diabetes knows no boundaries and is equally high in developed and in developing countries," said Dr. Carmela Pasamba-Pagunsan.

Slow progression

Diabetic kidney disease frequently progresses very slowly from the early stage of microalbuminuria to the more advanced proteinuria (excessive amount of protein in the urine) and ultimately to chronic kidney failure.

"This generally means dialysis or kidney transplantation, which the vast majority of our people cannot afford," said Dr. Ruby Go.

Diabetic kidney disease is among the 10 leading causes of mortality in the Philippines.

She said diabetic kidney disease is fast posing a tremendous burden on healthcare systems worldwide.

Preventing progression of prediabetes

By Charles E. Buban

ARE you eating too much food laden with sugar, fat, sodium (salt) or a combination of the three? Is your waistline expanding? Perhaps it's time you dropped by your doctor's clinic and have your blood glucose measured. You might already be suffering from impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or what is now being called by some as prediabetes.

IGT is a condition in which one's blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but are not high enough to be classified as diabetes.

It is more common among those who are overweight, particularly those who have a lot of fat in the abdominal region, and who are physically inactive.

"Because IGT has no signs or symptoms, many of these individuals may be unaware that they have it," says Araceli Panelo, Institute for Studies in Diabetes Foundation executive director.

Leads to diabetes

People with IGT have a 40 percent to 50 percent chance of developing Type 2 diabetes within 10 years. Once it has developed, the body's ability to deal with carbohydrates in the diet tends to continue declining, ultimately resulting in Type 2 diabetes.

Even if it does not progress to Type 2 diabetes, IGT already increases a person's risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

A recent Hong Kong study showed that patients with IGT were eight times more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than people with normal glucose tolerance.

The study showed that those with waistline and body mass index (BMI) above the median are more likely to have type 2 diabetes.

BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by his height in meters squared. A normal BMI is from 23 to 24 while those equal to or greater than 25 are considered overweight.

According to Panelo, the study underscores the well-known fact that obesity is highly correlated with IGT.

Weight loss, exercise

Weight loss and exercise will help, experts say, adding that there's no need to pare off every extra pound or undertake an elaborate, strenuous exercise program.

The Diabetes Prevention Program study done in the United States found that people with IGT who walked or did other exercises for a half-hour at least five times a week and lost 5 percent to 7 percent of their total weight cut by nearly 60 percent their risk of developing diabetes.

Medications

When lifestyle interventions fail, medication has been found to be effective at reducing the risk significantly as had been proven by the Study to Prevent Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Stop-NIDDM) trial.

The Stop-NIDDM was a multinational, randomized trial where 1,429 patients with IGT were given either 100 mg of acarbose thrice daily or placebo, and were followed up for 3.3 years.

The study found that 42 percent of placebo-treated patients developed diabetes, compared with 32 percent of patients treated with acarbose, representing a 25 percent reduction. And among those subjects, the risk of type 2 diabetes was reduced by 36.4 percent.

Acarbose slows down the absorption of glucose in the intestines. Acarbose, which is manufactured by Bayer, belongs to a class of drugs called alpha-glucosidase inhibitors. It works in the intestines, slowing down the digestion of carbohydrates, and lengthening the time it takes for carbohydrates to convert to glucose, thereby facilitating better blood glucose control.

The drug mainly influences the level of blood sugar after eating.

Mathematicians' secret lives

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MATHEMATICIANS are usually thought to be ivory-tower purists who never venture into politics or other fields. Yes, a lot of them live for the abstractions of math, but some remarkable ones worked with famous historical figures.

Below are queries from students about several well-known mathematicians, all of them contributing highly to mathematical physics.

The first e-mail comes from Bernard Co:

Our calculus teacher said Joseph Lagrange was a count. Is this true? What exactly did he do for calculus? I thought it was Newton who invented it.

I commend your teacher. Yes, Joseph Louis Lagrange was named by no less than Napoleon himself to the Legion of Honor and Count of the French Empire in 1808.

Lagrange (1736-1813) formulated the calculus of variations and applied it to celestial mechanics, especially in finding good solutions to the vexing problem of the day (the three-body problem, which also bugged Newton, among others).

Principles of mechanics

Although Newton and Leibnitz are usually independently credited with inventing the calculus, other mathematicians contributed to its development, among them Lagrange.

His best-known work was "Mecanique Analytique" ("Analytical Mechanics" published in 1788), which described the main principles of mechanics (mathematics overlapping with physics) and dealt heavily with differential equations.

Lagrange was professor at a school and a founder of the academy of science in Turin. He suffered from ill health but it did not stop him from going to Berlin and succeeding Euler.

His career did not end there. He went to Paris and became a member of the Paris Academy of Science. He flourished there and, unlike other scientists, was spared during the Revolution.

He was one of the strongest advocates of the metric system, and helped found the famous Ecole Polytechnique. For his efforts, he was made a count.

Fourier

Our next query concerns Joseph Fourier, who made contributions similar to Lagrange. In fact, their lives had many parallels. S. Silayan is a freshman who is taking up physics this semester. He asks:

We were discussing Fourier analysis in class. I understand the physics, but I want to know more about the scientist. Can you please enlighten me?

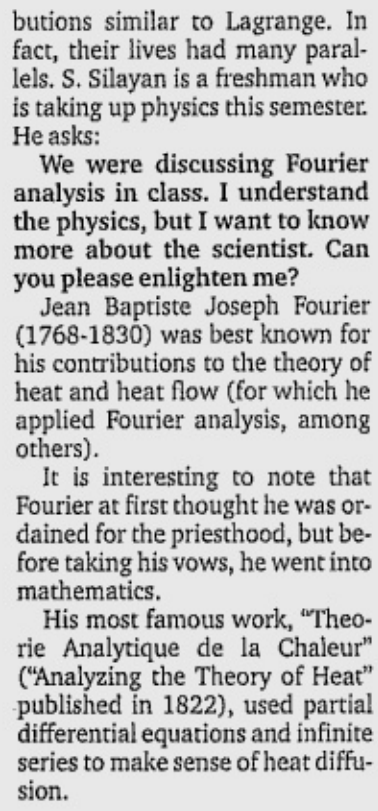
Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768-1830) was best known for his contributions to the theory of heat and heat flow (for which he applied Fourier analysis, among others).

It is interesting to note that Fourier at first thought he was ordained for the priesthood, but before taking his vows, he went into mathematics.

His most famous work, "Theorie Analytique de la Chaleur" ("Analyzing the Theory of Heat" published in 1822), used partial differential equations and infinite series to make sense of heat diffusion.

Scientific adviser to army

He rose high in France, and in 1798 joined Napoleon's army in its invasion of Egypt as scientific adviser, mainly to help build educational facilities and oversee archeological expeditions.



For those not familiar with Fourier analysis, here is a succinct summary.

Fourier analysis is primarily used to analyze repeating (or periodic) events, such as tidal patterns, business cycles, planet orbits, electric currents, and so on. These phenomena are usually described in terms of periodic functions, and Fourier analysis is brilliantly simple—why not represent such functions in terms of other simpler periodic functions, such as high school-level trigonometric functions (sine and cosine, etc.)? These trigonometric functions expand the given periodic functions, and integral calculus can then be used to make sense of the underlying behavior of the phenomenon.

Cauchy

Our last question comes from a student specializing in mathematics. Susana Aguilar wants to clarify Augustin Louis Cauchy's achievements:

I am familiar with the Cauchy integrals in calculus. In geometry we found out that Cauchy also did research on polyhedra. Is this the same Cauchy or a relative? What else did he do?

Augustin Louis Cauchy (1789-1857) was, again, a French mathematician and physicist who proved in 1811 that the angles of a convex polyhedron are determined by its faces. As you said, he was also the one responsible for the Cauchy integral theorem in calculus.

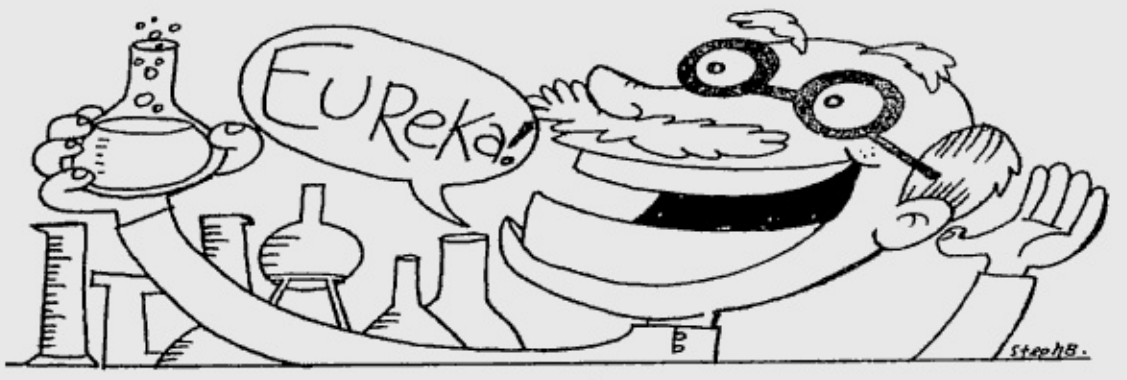
Prolific mathematician

As far as I know, Cauchy did not have a relative who also won acclaim in math.

You are sure to meet him again, for Cauchy was quite prolific. He appeared in differential equations—the Cauchy-Kovalevskaya existence theorem. He also studied convergence of infinite series and the mathematical theory of elasticity.

His best-known work are the "Cours d' Analyse" ("Course on Analysis" published in 1821) and the "Exercises d' Analyse et de Physique Mathematique" ("Exercises in Analysis and Mathematical Physics" published in four volumes from 1840 to 1847).

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.



Makers and creators

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

JUST over a year ago I wrote an article about Craig Venter, best-known for his role in speeding up the progress of the Human Genome Project, and his plans to create life in the form of bacteria that would clean up toxic spills, combat biological weapons, and yet not reproduce outside of the laboratory or infect humans. The plan was to have the bacteria ready for use by 2006.

Last week Venter and his team at the Institute of Biological Energy Alternative (Ibea) announced they had taken the first step toward achieving that goal by creating an exact duplicate of the phiX virus by combining various genetic sequences. The duplicated virus behaves just like the real phiX virus, and is structurally identical.

The year since Venter began his quest to find out just what genes are important for life to exist has seen great strides in what I call the "from scratch" category, in which there are two distinct branches: the makers and the creators.

Coaxing cells

Last May, Hans Schöler and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania announced they had coaxed embryonic stem cells (ES cells) from mice to form oocytes, or eggs, and those eggs could make the transformation into embryos. The paper can be found in Science.

Then last month, Toshiaki Noce and his colleagues at the Mitsubishi Kaguku Institute of Life Sciences in Tokyo announced they had coaxed mouse ES cells to develop into sperm cells.

In their paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Dr. Noce summed up these two complementary studies by saying that such in vitro (in an artificial environment, i.e., outside the cell, as opposed to in situ, or in a fixed cell) culture systems "may open the way...to a novel approach to reproductive engineering."

Creating poliovirus

Then last July, Eckard Wimmer and his colleagues at the State University of New York at Stony Brook were able to create the poliovirus from various DNA sequences.

As detailed in their paper published in Science, Wimmer et al. treated the virus' well-known sequence like a recipe: they downloaded the sequence off the Internet and bought the needed DNA sequences from mail-order companies.

The ability to create a virus isn't exactly good news with the word bioterrorism floating around.

"We did it...to prove that it could be done," Dr. Wimmer said back in July. "It's the first time someone has started with a sequence on paper and put together the necessary ingredients chemically to create the virus specified. We don't need any nature-formed template anymore. We just need the Internet to tell us the sequence of a virus. You can make pretty much any virus this way."

Yet that's not how Dr. Venter's team at Ibea made their virus.

Creating a virus replica

As reported in last week's issue of PNAS, Dr. Venter's team took a technique known as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and modified it into what they now call the polymerase chain assembly (PCA) to speed up the way DNA is sequenced, paired and replicated to create a replica of another virus.

Don't worry: phiX only infects bacteria, not humans. And while the SUNY researchers spent years assembling the DNA sequences for poliovirus, the Ibea team took only 14 days to create the phiX virus.

Speaking during a press conference last week, Dr. Venter reminded the public of his original goal and said the creation of the phiX virus was just "an interim step," but one which "may lead to extraordinary advances in our ability to engineer microorganisms for many vital energy and environmental purposes."

Playing Frankenstein

How extraordinary exactly? Let's do the math: a year ago Dr. Venter had a goal. Now he has made a virus in 14 days. I'm beginning to think he'll beat his 2006 deadline by a few months.

"Playing God" is a term applied to many doctors. In this case, it may be an apt description for all four scientists, with certain distinctions.

Scholer and Noce are makers. They took the ES cells, the most basic cells with the ability to become other kinds of cells, and oversaw the change into what they wanted—egg or sperm cells.

Wimmer and Venter are creators. They took DNA, the most basic blocks of life, and put them together to come up with a virus.

Yet you need to be both a maker and a creator to bake clay and come up with men. So maybe we shouldn't say we're playing God, at least, not yet. Maybe instead we're playing Dr. Frankenstein.

Postgrad course on elderly care slated Nov. 23

PHILIPPINE Academy of Family Physicians president president Reynaldo Olazo and executive secretary Imelda Maribeth Garcia are inviting PAFP members to the 42nd postgraduate course Module 3 on Care for the Elderly on Nov. 23 at the United Laboratories Inc. in Mandaluyong City.

Speakers are Doctors Doris dela Cuesta-Camagay, Lynn Crisanta Panganiban, Joseph Oliver Villaruel and Verdades Peña Linga. For inquiries, call 844-2135 or 844-3436.

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (IIE)

Internationally recognized non-profit organization seeks an international program officer for a USAID/ US-Asia Environmental Partnership funded position based in IIE's Manila Office

Program Officer - Environmental Exchange Division

S/he will work with USAID/USAEP country manager, partners and US & Bangkok based IIE staff to develop, coordinate & implement exchange programs; and to create and nurture sustainable US- Philippines partnerships. S/he will serve as IIE's primary representative in the Philippines for all activities and will manage Manila office & staff.

Qualifications:
- Previous experience managing international development projects
- Previous USAID or multi-lateral program experience desirable
- Bachelors degree + 5 years relevant professional experience required. Masters degree, environmental experience a plus.
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Self starter, good judgement, strong team player and able to work with minimum supervision required

Please send a cover letter, resume, 3 references, and current and expected salary to:
Fax No: (632) 890-6414; or email to: iie_phil@mozcom.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Needed immediately Japanese, Korean and Mandarin speaking staff with pleasing personality to be detailed at the Department of Tourism (DOT), Tourist Assistance Counter, Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) I & II.

Submit your resumé to the Philippine Convention & Visitors Corporation (PCVC), 4th Flr., Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Boulevard, Manila Fax No.: 5216165 / 5253314, or thru Email: ttu@dotpcvc.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee
Division of Mountain Province

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
IFB No.-002-SBP-2003

November 20, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for the civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987).
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders classified by IAC & PCAB for general building for the proposed bid packages

Package No. MTP-05-04-0050	License Small B	Repair of One (1) Unit Two (2) Classrooms School Building @ Layug-Ogtong ES/ Repair of one (1) Unit Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Puya-ao all are located in the Municipality of Natonin, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-05-05-0054	License Small B	Repair of One (1) Unit Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Bulac ES / Repair of Two (2) Units Five Classrooms School Building @ Apapawan ES all are located in the Municipality of Natonin, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-05-06-0055	License at least Medium A	Repair of One (1) Unit Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Natonin CS/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Maducayan ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Two (2) Classrooms School Building @ Salok ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom School Building @ Banawel ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Tonglayan ES all are located in the Municipality of Natonin, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-03-08-0056	License at least Medium A	Repair of Two (2) Units Six (6) Classrooms School Building @ Besao CS/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Gueday ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Calengan ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Two (2) Classrooms School Building @ Pangweo ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Tamboan ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Dandanac ES all are located in the Municipality of Besao, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-04-09-0057	License at least Medium A	New Construction of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms Two Storey TEEP School Building @ Bontoc CS/ Repair of Two (2) Units Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Dalican ES all are located in the Municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-04-10-0058	License Small B	Repair of Two (2) Units Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Maligcong ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Mainit ES all are located in the Municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-06-06-0059	License at least Medium A	New Construction of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms Two Storey TEEP School Building @ Paracelis CS/ Repair of Two (2) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Makilo ES all are located in the Municipality of Paracelis, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTO-06-07-0060	License Small B	New Construction of One (1) Unit Two (2) Classrooms One Storey TEEP School Building @ Paracelis CS/Repair of Two (2) Units Four (4) Classrooms School Building @ Paracelis CS/ Repair of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom School Building @ Marallag PS all are located in the Municipality of Paracelis, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-06-08-0061	License Small B	Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Palitud ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom School Building @ kalao PS/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Butigue ES all are located in the Municipality of Paracelis, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-08-04-0062	License Small B	Construction of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom School Building @ Anabel ES/ Repair of Two (2) Units Six (6) Classrooms School Building @ Betwagan ES all are located in the Municipality of Sadanga, Mountain Province.
Package No. MTP-08-05-0063	License Small B	New Construction of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom One Storey TEEP School Building @ Bekigan ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Two (2) Classrooms School Building @ Sacasacan ES all are located in the Municipality of Barlig.
Package No. MTP-01-05-0064	License Small B	Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Lias ES/ Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms School Building @ Ogo-og PS all are located in the Municipality of Barlig, Mountain Province.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP DPISU Office, DepEd, Division of Mountain Province with address at Bontoc, Mountain Province for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) only for each package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, TEEP DPISU OFFICE, DepED, Division of Mountain Province, Bontoc, Mountain Province on or before 10:00 AM December 17, 2003 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) ERLINDA P. SAN JOSE
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 20& 21, 2003)

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Health & Safety Equipment – Safety harnesses; Safety helmets; Road cones; Hazard warning lights, etc
Office Furniture & Equipment – TOSHIBA, PANASONIC, SHARP facsimile machines, HP design jet 600 plotter; TOSHIBA, MINOLTA, MITA, XEROX Photocopiers; Clericak desks; Computer tables; Conference tables; Wooden Bookshelves; Upholstered guest/clerical chairs, etc.;
Miscellaneous – Split/window type air conditioners; waterdispensers; HD tanks/ cannisters; Platform weighing scale, etc

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT of AGRARIAN REFORM
DAR-Asian Development Bank
Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The DAR-ADB ARCP is a national level Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) Project addressing rural poverty implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform supported by a loan from the Asian Development Bank. The Central Project Management Office located at the Ground Floor FAPsO Building DAR Central Office is pleased to announce the need for:

Area Project Manager

The above position shall be based in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in Cotabato City. He will be responsible for the day to day operation of the ARCP in his/her defined area of operation and will have direct responsibility in the efficient and effective functioning of the Area Project Office (APO). With guidelines from the Project Management Board (PMB) as detailed by the Central Project Management Office (CPMO), he/she will ensure the successful implementation of the project following the provisions of the loan and project agreement in accordance with the Project Operations Manual. He/she will be accountable to the National Project Manager at the CPMO in the performance of the following terms of reference:

- With the assistance of his/her staff, adapt and implement the following systems according to the needs of the APO and its areas of operation: a) subproject approval system covering technical, financial, economic, social and environmental considerations; b) M & E system; c) administrative and financial system, including internal control; and d) NGO selection and deployment mechanism;
- Participate in planning and assessment exercises of the CPMO and lead in the particularization of such at the APO level;
- Promote and represent the Project in the APO's areas of operation;
- Lead in maintaining effective working relations with DAR and project partners such as LGUs and other related government agencies, NGOs, and POs in the APO's area of operation;
- Provide guidance and direction in the day to day activities of the APO units and staff;
- Ensure the preparation and submission to the CPMO of APO quarterly and annual plans and reports, highlighting the outstanding issues and concerns in his/her assigned areas making recommendations and defining resolutions as appropriate;
- Ensure the preparation and submission to the CPMO of updates, work plans and special reports as needed;
- Lead in deliberations of all project-related documents including subproject proposals, monitoring and evaluation in the APO's areas of operation;
- Lead in ensuring that funds which are made available for all project components have adequate amount and ascertain timely provision of such in the APO's areas of operation;
- Lead in ensuring that contracts or agreements related to the project in his/her area are drafted and executed in accordance with the terms of such contracts/agreements; and
- Perform other tasks as may be assigned by the National Project Manager.

Qualification standards:

- Minimum of 10 years relevant experience in the management and implementation of rural development projects;
- Well-versed in project planning, appraisal and evaluation;
- A mix of successful management experience in community and institutional development; rural infrastructure; and agricultural development is crucial;
- Bachelor's degree in management, economics, agriculture or rural development;
- Master's degree in related field will be an advantage.

Interested applicants may send their letter of intent by COB **December 5, 2003** with copy of a comprehensive curriculum vitae attached with a 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Asst. Secretary for Support Services/FAPsO Executive Director
Head, National Screening and Selection Committee
Ground Floor, FAPsO Building, DAR Central Office
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Attention: **National Project Manager**
DAR-ADB ARCP

Note: Previous applicants need not apply.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-8301
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

20 November 2003

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

1. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 4, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
2. Repair/Renovation of Budget Office, G/F, Bldg. No. 2, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
3. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 2 (2/F, Ceiling and Rooling), DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz Manila
4. Repair/Renovation of Bldg No. 13, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila

IFB NO. 2004-I-28(I)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of 2003 intends to apply the sum of *Three Million Four Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two & 85/100 Philippine Pesos (PhP3,494,732.85)*, chargeable against the funds of the different Services.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "B" and registration of "Medium A" for Building and Industrial Plant for the projects
   a. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 4, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
   b. Repair/Renovation of Budget Office, G/F, Bldg. No. 2, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
   c Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 2 (2/F, Ceiling and Rooling), DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
   d. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 13, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila

The dates to be followed are:

	Schedule
1 Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License)	December 1 to 5, 2003
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility documents	December 10, 2003
3. Posting of eligible contractors	January 6, 2004
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	January 7 to 13, 2004
5. Pre-Bid Conference	January 16, 2004 @ 10:00 a.m.
6. Submission & Opening of Bids	January 28, 2004 @ 10:00 a.m.

3. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, only these Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
4. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the Procurement Division, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Telephone No. 711-6831 (DL)/743-8301 Local 3826/ 3627, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from November 10 to 20, 2003, upon submission of a written application to the following address.

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila

and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP 5,000.00). Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis.

6. Bids must be delivered not later than 10:00 A.M., on 28 January 2004, at the Health Human Resource Development Bureau (HHRDB) Conference Room, 3/F, Bldg. 12-A, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the Bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to issuance of Purchase Order (PO) without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson

(PDI – November 22 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of **Forty-Five (45) Units Opacity Meters** for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and its IRR, specifically in the enforcement of the Anti-Smoke Belching Campaign.

The approved budget for the contract to be bid is Thirteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P13,500,000.00) from the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program (MMAQISDP) loan of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) now invites sealed quotations from eligible suppliers who are member countries of ADB for the supply of the above item for the purpose of the Project.

Eligibility forms and other documents are available for issuance until the deadline on **08 December 2003, 3:00 p.m.** at the DOTC BAC for the Implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations Office, 16th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. Last day of submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be received not later than **11 December 2003, 10:00 a.m.** Opening of Eligibility documents will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office.

Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of proposal documents starting on **22 December 2003** to **25 January 2004** upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above Office and payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) in cash or manager's check payable to DOTC.

Sealed bids shall be received at the BAC Office not later than **20 February 2004, 3:00 P.M.** at the same address. Opening of bid proposals shall be held immediately thereafter at the same office.

The DOTC-BAC for the Implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer that may be considered most advantageous to the Government.

The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO T. VALDEZ**
Undersecretary for Transportation
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 22 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of **Fifty-Two (52) Units Gas Analyzers** for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and its IRR, specifically in the enforcement of the Anti-Smoke Belching Campaign.

The approved budget for the contract to be bid is Fifteen Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P15,600,000.00) from the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program (MMAQISDP) loan of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) now invites sealed quotations from eligible suppliers who are member countries of ADB for the supply of the above item for the purpose of the Project.

Eligibility forms and other documents are available for issuance until the deadline on **08 December 2003, 3:00 p.m.** at the DOTC BAC for the Implementation of the CAA Rules and Regulations Office, 16th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. Last day of submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be received not later than **11 December 2003, 10:00 a.m.** Opening of Eligibility documents will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office.

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(Sgd.) **ARTURO T. VALDEZ**
Undersecretary for Transportation
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 22 & 27, 2003)

BIG DISCOUNTS ON HERITAGE PARK LOTS

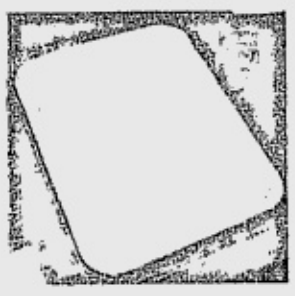
ESTATE LOTS - P2,250,000
GARDEN LOTS - P 540,000
(Inclusive of VAT)

TERMS:
D/P = 30%
Balance = 12 mos. @ 0% interest

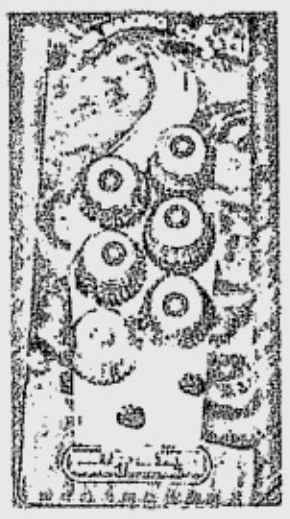
LIMITED NUMBER OF LOTS AVAILABLE. CHRISTMAS PROMO PRICE UNTIL DEC. 20, 2003 ONLY. BUY NOW!!!

For inquiries, please call Atty. Vicky O. Pollisco 6358341 (office hours) 09208084825

Imported **ALUMINUM TRAYS** and
Imported **PAPER BAKING CUPS**



- with large variety of sizes
- different colors and designs (baking cups)
- suitable for baking
- best as food containers / food packaging



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 4212327; 9116001 loc 6592
Website: www.afp.mil.ph / e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **ACQUISITION OF ONE (1) F-27-500 AIRCRAFT AND ITS INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SUPPORT (ILS)** for the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of **Ninety One Million and Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 91,200,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from prime contractors duly certified by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the F-27-500 and/or by appropriate Government Aviation Authority/Agency shall be entertained.

The bid documents will be available for issuance starting **22 November 2003** until **14 December 2003** during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Nine Thousand Pesos (Php 9,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **01 December 2003** at 2:00 PM (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat three (3) days before the Pre-Bid Conference.

The deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and bid envelopes is scheduled on **15 December 2003** at 9:00 AM (local time) to be immediately followed by the Opening of Bids at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:

(Original Signed)
ROBERTO G NUQUI
Brigadier General AFP
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 22 & 29, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to bid for the following:

		PRE-BID	OPENING	ABC
I	Service Contract			
	a. Security Services	Nov. 27, 2003, 9:00am	Dec. 9, 2003 9:00am	P2,000,000.00
	b. Laundry Services	-do-	-do-	2,500,000.00
II.	Foodstuff	Nov. 27, 2003 2:00pm	Dec. 9, 2003 2:00pm	3,476,438.00
III.	Medical Supplies	Nov. 28, 2003 9:00am	Dec. 10, 2003 9:00am	13,400,000.00
IV.	Laboratory Supplies	-do-	Dec. 10, 2003 2:00pm	3,538,289.00
V.	Dermatological/Antiseptic/ Disinfectant	Nov. 28, 2003 2:00pm	Dec. 11, 2003 9:00am	450,825.00
	Dental Supplies	-do-	-do-	27,956.00
VI.	Radiology/Ultrasound/ Internist	-do-	Dec. 11, 2003 2:00pm	277,045.00
	Miscellaneous Supplies	-do-	-do-	180,840.00
	Linen & Laundry Supplies	-do-	-do-	610,540.00
VII.	Drugs and Medicines	Dec. 3, 2003 9:00am	Dec. 15, 2003, 2:00pm	35,000,000.00
IX.	Various Medical Instruments	Dec. 4, 2003 9:00am	Dec. 17, 2003 9:00am	1,000,000.00
X.	Various Medical Equipment	-do- 2:00pm	Dec. 17, 2003 2:00pm	9,900,000.00

Only responsible and duly accredited manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors or suppliers as certified by the DOH Accreditation Committee are qualified to participate. Bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of corresponding fee which is not refundable. For inquiries, contact the Secretariat at telephone numbers 735-71-44; 734-55-61 loc. 109.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid bond, performance bond, evaluation, postqualification and award shall be governed by the provisions of the existing rules and regulations.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARIE THERESE A. PACABIS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 16 & 22, 2003)

ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP
We manage for best value.
PNB

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOVEMBER 26, 2003 • WEDNESDAY • 2:00 p.m.
PENTHOUSE, B.A. LEPANTO BUILDING
PASEO DE ROXAS AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

- VALUE FOR MONEY DEALS
- GUARANTEED FINANCING
- FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10 YEARS
- 10% DOWNPAYMENT FOR LOTS
- 25% DOWNPAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES

KALOOCAN CITY

Lot 1 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 295 sqm
LOT 48 B14, GOLDEN SHOWER ST., BF HOMES3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 590,000

Lot 2 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 359 sqm Floor Area: 222sqm
NINONG OSMUNDO COR NINONG FLORENTINO, BF HOMES II, DEPARO.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 790,000

QUEZON CITY

Lot 3 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 335 sqm Floor Area: 302sqm
L12F1, #2 PONCIANO BERNARDO ST., BAGONG LIPUNAN, CUBAO DIS.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,010,000

Lot 4 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 275.7 sqm
Floor Area: 357sqm
46-A B.GONZALES ST, XAVIERVILLE SUBD., LOYOLA HEIGHTS
Minimum Bid Price: Php 6,128,000

Lot 5 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 180 sqm Floor Area: 182sqm
LOT 22-A/ BLK 145, # 28 MALAKAS ST, BGY PINYAHAN, DILIMAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,320,000

Lot 6 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm Floor Area: 93 sqm
LOT 4 BLK 1, #45 VILLAMOR ST. DONA FAUSTINA SUBD.NOVALICHES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 688,000

Lot 7 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 136 sqm Floor Area: 55 sqm
L247-A-3-B-1-B, #35 MARCEL DRIVE, BAESA
Minimum Bid Price: Php 588,000

Lot 8 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 200 sqm Floor Area: 133 sqm
L31B85, CANA ST. LAGRO SUBD
Minimum Bid Price: Php 780,000

Lot 9 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 329 sqm Floor Area: 121 sqm
#14 ORANGE ST, ODELCO SUBD, SAN BARTOLOME, NOVALICHES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,244,400

Lot 10 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 232.7 sqm
Floor Area: 167 sqm
L20B83, #38 INT J. ZOBEL, DIOQUINO ZOBEL, PROJECT 4
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,200,000

Lot 11 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 176.9sqm Floor Area: 107sqm
#61 INT EVANGELISTA ST BAGUMBAYAN PROJECT 4
Minimum Bid Price: Php 962,000

Lot 12 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 162.5 sqm
Floor Area: 82 sqm
L6-A/B7, STA..EDITHA ST. ST JAMES SUBD., BRGY NAGKAISANG NAYON
Minimum Bid Price: Php 706,000

Lot 13 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,010 sqm Floor Area: 51 sqm
16-A INT FIDELCRUZ ST. TS CRUZ SUBD. NOVALICHES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,316,000

Lot 15 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 282 sqm Floor Area: 84 sqm
LOT 39 BLK 7, COR. BACH & ABELARDO STS. IDEAL SUBD.,COMMONWEALTH
Minimum Bid Price: Php 750,000

Lot 16 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 267 sqm Floor Area: 376 sqm
#1 ILANG-ILANG ST., SAN PEDRO 9 SUBD., BAGBAG, NOVALICHES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,855,000

Lot 17 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 252 sqm Floor Area: 140 sqm
LOT 4 BLK 4, 15 CHOPIN ST., GREENVILLE SUBD., SAUYO, NOVALICHES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,360,000

Lot 18 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 181 sqm Floor Area: 76 sqm
39 SAN IGNACIO ST., BRGY. GULOD NOVALICHES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 732,000

Lot 19 – CONDO
Floor Area: 66 sqm
U407 4F MISSION GARDEN CONDO, #59 SCOUT YBARDOLAZA ST.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,586,000

Lot 20 – CONDO
Floor Area: 72.75 sqm
UNIT 404 4/F ADELINA II CONDOMINIUM, OLUMBIA COR. IMPERIAL ST., QC
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,237,000

Lot 21 – TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 447.7 sqm
Floor Area: 205 sqm
NO 21, DON JOSE ST., BRGY SAN ROQUE, CUBAO Q.C.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 5,500,000

MANILA
Lot 22 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 73.7sqm Floor Area: 196 sqm
B14/L1-E, HERBOSA EXT. TONDO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,215,000

Lot 23 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 52.46 sqm
Floor Area: 70 sqm
LOT 10 BLK 14-F-1, #126 C.P. GARCIA ST., DON BOSCO, TONDO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 405,000

Lot 24 – CONDO
Floor Area: 92.27 sqm
UNIT 1005 10F UNITED GROUP BLDG. CONDO, 569 JUAN LUNA, BINONDO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,950,000

SAN JUAN

Lot 25 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 106 sqm Floor Area: 155 sqm
LOT 26-E, BONI SERRANO COR 5TH ST., WEST CRAME
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,165,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lot 26 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 68.04 sqm
Floor Area: 112 sqm
LOT 5 BLK 15, 25 CORONADO ST(INT), BGY HULO P2
Minimum Bid Price: Php 800,000

MARIKINA CITY

Lot 27 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 322 sqm
LOT 15 BLK 2, ROLLING HILLS DRIVE, MONTEREY HILLS SUBD., PARANG
Minimum Bid Price: Php 383,000

PASIG CITY

Lot 28 – CONDO
Floor Area: 152 sqm
UNIT 504, 5TH FLR CRISANTA TOWERS, CAPT JAVIER ST., BRGY. ORAMBO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 4,578,000

Lot 29 – CONDO
Floor Area: 181 sqm
UNIT 1103, 11/F MANILA LUXURY CONDO, PEARL DRIVE COR. GOLD LOOP, ORTIGAS CENTER
Minimum Bid Price: Php 5,202,000

MAKATI CITY

Lot 30 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 324 sqm Floor Area: 108sqm
1 PONTE ST., M. DELA PAZ SUBD., BRGY. SINGKAMAS
Minimum Bid Price: Php 4,600,000

TAGUIG

Lot 31 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 120 sqm
L31-B BLK 41, SPARROW ST., BAY BREEZE EXEC. VILLAGE, WAWA
Minimum Bid Price: Php 165,000

Lot 32 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 126 sqm Floor Area: 95 sqm
LOT 23 BLK 71, RAMAIN
ST MAHARLIKA VIL., UPPER BICUTAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 321,000

PASAY CITY

Lot 33 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 207 sqm Floor Area: 140sqm
LOT 2, 010 (274) N.GERONIMO ST., MALIBAY
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,377,000

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Lot 34 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 324 sqm
L2-C-3, LIGAS ST., PAMPLONA TRES
Minimum Bid Price: Php 255,000

PARAÑAQUE CITY

Lot 35 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 328 sqm Floor Area: 30 sqm
CADENA DE AMOR COR ADELFA, UNITED PARAÑAQUE SUB 4
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,032,000

Lot 36 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 384 sqm Floor Area: 143 sqm
LOT 6 & 8 BLK. 4, 3941 DAHLIA ST. STO NINO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,700,000

Lot 37 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 260 sqm Floor Area: 137 sqm
LOT 61 BLK 13, #68 FC SANTOS ST, BF HOMES PH III
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,546,000

Lot 38 – CONDO
Floor Area: 93 sqm
UNIT 1404, 14TH FLR., BAYVIEW INT'L TOWERS, TOWER I, ROXAS BLVD.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,260,000

Lot 39 – CONDO
Floor Area: 76.4 sqm
PENTHOUSE E ISABELLE MANSION LP LEVISTE AVE., SUN VALLEY BGY. MERVILLE
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,091,000

Lot 40 – CONDO
Floor Area: 76.4 sqm
PENTHOUSE G ISABELLE MANSION LP LEVISTE AVE., SUN VALLEY BGY. MERVILLE
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,091,000

Lot 41 – CONDO
Floor Area: 48 sqm
PENTHOUSE L ISABELLE MANSION LP LEVISTE AVE., SUN VALLEY BGY. MERVILLE
Minimum Bid Price: Php 686,000

MUNTINLUPA

Lot 42 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 263 sqm Floor Area: 125sqm
233 INT. NATL RD, PUROK2, B2 BAYANAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 440,000

BULACAN

Lot 43 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,007 sqm
L3220 A-8, BRGY. MAKINABANG, BALIUAG
Minimum Bid Price: Php 452,000

Lot 44 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 103 sqm
LOT 2-H-1, POBLACION, ANGAT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 74,400

Lot 45 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 522 sqm
LOT 2-H-3, POBLACION, ANGAT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 377,145

Lot 46 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,100 sqm
LOT 3, SAUDI SUBD., POBLACION ANGAT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 467,500

Lot 47 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,057 sqm
LOT 1531-B-5-A-2, J.P. RIZAL STREET, POBLACION, STA. MARIA
Minimum Bid Price: Php 5,706,000

Lot 48 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 233 sqm
GREEN PLAINS SUBD., SAN MARCOS, CALUMPIT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 559,000

Lot 49 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 220 sqm
GREEN PLAINS SUBD, SN MARCOS, CALUMPIT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 528,000

Lot 50 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm
LOT 14 BLK 6, EUCALYPTUS ST., GREEN PLAINS SUBD., SAN MARCOS, CALUMPIT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 480,000

LOTS ONLY

OLD PROVINCIAL ROAD, SALANGAN, SAN MIGUEL
Lot 51 – LOT 1819-D
Lot Area: 220 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 33,000
Lot 52 – LOT 1819-I
Lot Area: 461 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 69,000
Lot 53 – LOT 1819-E
Lot Area: 505 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 76,000
Lot 54 – LOT 1819-J
Lot Area: 506 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 76,000
Lot 55 – LOT 1819-K
Lot Area: 553 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 83,000
Lot 56 – LOT 1819-L
Lot Area: 600 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 90,000
Lot 57 – LOT 1819-M
Lot Area: 723 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 108,000

Lot 58 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337 sqm
RUBY ST. ROSARYVILLE SUBD, PHASE 2, STA CRUZ, GUIGINTO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 573,000

Lot 59 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 924 sqm
LOT 9943 (568-D) LEGASPI COMPOUND, STO. CRISTO PULILAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 485,000

Lot 60 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 412 sqm
LOT 1 BLK 3, GONZALES ST., SAN AGUSTIN SAN RAFAEL
Minimum Bid Price: Php 130,000
Lot 61 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1820 sqm
LOT 3206, VILLACORTA ST., SAN ILDEFONSO
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,380,000

Lot 62 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5000 sqm
NORBERTO ST.(INTERIOR), SAN JOSE SAN MIGUEL
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,250,000

Lot 63 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3328 sqm
LOT 54-0-2, # 104(008) DE JESUS ST., POBLACION PLARIDEL
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,700,000

Lot 64 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
LOT 11 BLK 6, GUILLERMA VILLAGE STA. RITA SAN MIGUEL
Minimum Bid Price: Php 250,000

Lot 65 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 744 sqm
LOT 183-D, QUEZON ST., CUT-CUT GUIGUINTO, BULACAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 316,000

Lot 66 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 464 sqm
LOT 2130-C-7-G-5-F-3-D, E. VERGEL DE DIOS ST. BANGA II PLARIDEL
Minimum Bid Price: Php 555,000

Lot 67 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 201 sqm
LOT 1 BLK 16 DONA RITA AVE COR. GOLDEN SHOWER ROAD, GREEN PLAINS SUBD., SAN MARCOS CALUMPIT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 480,000

Lot 68 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm
L15 to 18 Blk 6, EMCCO SUBD., PANDAYAN MEYCAUAYAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 420,000

LOTS ONLY : MCARTHUR HI-WAY BRGY. SALUYSOY, MEYCAUAYAN

Lot 69 – LOT 1 BLK 1
Lot Area: 67 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 246,000
Lot 70 – LOT 2 BLK 1
Lot Area: 67 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 246,000
Lot 71 – LOT 3 BLK 1
Lot Area: 52 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000
Lot 72 – LOT 4 BLK 1
Lot Area: 52 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000
Lot 73 – LOT5 BLK 1
Lot Area: 52 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000
Lot 74 – LOT 6 BLK 1
Lot Area: 52 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000
Lot 75 – LOT 7 BLK 1
Lot Area: 51 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 192,000
Lot 76 – LOT 8 BLK 1
Lot Area: 51.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 185,000
Lot 77 – LOT 9 BLK 1
Lot Area: 51 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 191,000
Lot 78 – LOT 10 BLK 1
Lot Area: 51sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 191,000
Lot 79 – LOT 11 BLK 1
Lot Area: 50.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000
Lot 80 – LOT 12 BLK1
Lot Area: 50.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000
Lot 81 – LOT 13 BLK 1
Lot Area: 50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 187,000
Lot 82 – LOT 14 BLK 1
Lot Area: 50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 187,000
Lot 83 – LOT 15 BLK 1
Lot Area: 49.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 185,000
Lot 84 – LOT 16 BLK 1
Lot Area: 49.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 185,000
Lot 85 – LOT 17 BLK
Lot Area: 49 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 183,000
Lot 86 – LOT 18 BLK 1
Lot Area: 49 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 183,000
Lot 87 – LOT 19 BLK 1
Lot Area: 48.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 181,000
Lot 88 – LOT 20 BLK 1
Lot Area: 48.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 181,000
Lot 89 – LOT 21 BLK 1
Lot Area: 48 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 178,000
Lot 90 – LOT 22 BLK 1
Lot Area: 47.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 178,000
Lot 91 – LOT 23 BLK 1
Lot Area: 60 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 224,000
Lot 92 – LOT 24 BLK 1
Lot Area: 59 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 221,000
Lot 93 – LOT 13 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 94 – LOT 14 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 95 – LOT 15 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 96 – LOT 34 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 97 –LOT 16 BLK 2
Lot Area: 77 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 282,000
Lot 98 –LOT 17 BLK 2
Lot Area: 46.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 173,000
Lot 99 –LOT 18 BLK 2
Lot Area: 49sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 180,000
Lot 100 –LOT 19 BLK 2
Lot Area: 51 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 190,000
Lot 101 – LOT 20 BLK 2
Lot Area: 93 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 335,000
Lot 102 –LOT 21 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 103 – LOT 22 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 104 – LOT 23 BLK 2
Lot Area: 55 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 198,000
Lot 105 – LOT 24 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 106 – LOT 25 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 107 – LOT 26 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 108 – LOT 27 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 109 – LOT 28 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 110 – LOT 29 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 111 – LOT 30 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 112 – LOT 31 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 113 – LOT 32 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000
Lot 114 – LOT 33 BLK 2
Lot Area: 52.5 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: Php 196,000

Lot 115 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 200 sqm Floor Area: 747 sqm
PROV'L. RD. SITIO SAN PEDRO, PUROK 7, AREA P, SAPANG PALAY, SDJM
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,295,000

Lot 116 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 402 sqm Floor Area: 302 sqm
BRGY. CANIOGAN, MALOLOS
Minimum Bid Price: Php 720,000

Lot 117 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 384 sqm Floor Area: 225 sqm
LOT 10 BLK 11, VELASQUEZ ST. CORAZON, CALUMPIT
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,200,000

Lot 118 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 134 sqm
Floor Area: 255 sqm
LOT 23-C-1-A-1, MACARTHUR HIWAY, SAN JUAN BALAGTAS
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,680,000

Lot 119 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 854 sqm Floor Area: 240 sqm
LOTS 4696 O, N & P, 53 INT SORIENTE ST. TUGATOG MEYCAUAYAN
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,000,000

Lot 120 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 248 sqm
Floor Area: 240 sqm
104 CADENA dE AMOR ST., ALDO HEIGHTS SUBD., BULIHAN, MALOLOS
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,040,000

Lot 121 – LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 181 sqm
Floor Area: 150 sqm
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"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved his appearing."

11 Timothy 4: 7-8

Our Beloved

BETTI CHUA SY

Commercial Finance Director
The Coca Cola Export Corporation
(April 27, 1971 – November 17, 2003)

Went home to the Lord at the age of 32.

She is survived by her loving parents **George** & **Maria Sy**; brothers **Walter, Warrick, Wayne, Winston,** & **Winnifred**; sisters-in-law **Kathreen** & **Josephine**; nephews and niece **Winfield, Kylee, Winzentt, Kyron** and **Wyniel**.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 23, 2003 at the Ever Memorial Park, North Diversion Road, Exit Laoang Bato at 1:00 p.m.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

JUSTO "TOTOY" M. DE JESUS, JR.

of Cavite City and Cubao, Quezon City

who passed away on November 16, 2003

wish to convey our sincere grattiude to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immeasurable ways were there for us when we needed it most.

IRENEA L. NERA

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 19, 2003 at the age of 70.

Her bereaved husband, **Benjamin**; her children **Belinda** & **Victor Gallamos, Alicia** & **Danilo Casison, Nenita** & **Ricardo Cortez, Francisco** & **Victoria Nera, Maria Lucia**; and grandchildren **Maria Leonor, Martin Gerard, Irene Marie, Katrina Michaela, Lorenzo Luis**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #018 Bucaneg St., San Fernando City, La Union.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 27 November 2003, at St. William Cathedral. Interment will follow immediately at the Municipal Cemetery, Lingsat, San Fernando City, La Union.

"The bright sun will shine again as the day you were born, for you will be led into God's own way."
— Fr. C.J.M.

The family of

DULCE "DULCING" GUZMAN REYES

widow of the late **Apolinario T. Reyes**

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 20, 2003 at the age of 95.

Her bereaved children **Milagros** (†), **Luisa, Teresa, Elisa, Apolinario Jr., Aurora, Alfredo** and **Jose Luis**; daughters-in-law **Myrna** and **Elizabeth**; sons-in-law **Alberto** and **Ruperto**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; step brothers and step sister, cousins, nephews, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Garden Suite, Ground floor, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

ATTY. JOHNNY GAZA PUHAWAN

of Lumban, Laguna & Baldwin Park, California, U.S.A.

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 16, 2003 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Ester**; children **Rick, Rodel, Roly, Tita, Rene, Reden** (†), **Ramir & Thelma**; sisters **Nene** (†), **Perly, Zeny**; brother **Roger**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces and all other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Whittier, California. Interment will be today, November 22, 2003 at Rose Hills Mortuary, Whittier, California after the celebration of the Holy Mass at St. Elizabeth Seaton Church in Rowland Heights, California, U.S.A.

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

Autumn comes. It always does.
Goodbye comes. It always does ...
And so I begin my fallow vigil,
Remembering the truth of the ages;
Unless the wheat seed dies
It cannot sing a new birth.
Unless summer gives in to autumn
Springtime will never embrace me.

(Author unknown)

The family of the late

TAN CHUA KING HA

thanks you, our friends,
for your generous gestures of
kindness
and care in our time of
sorrow.

Her bereaved and devoted children and spouses,

Lucio** and **Carmen
Sencio** and **Lay Ming
Mariano** and **Aleta
Harry** and **Vivian** (†) and **Cindy
Frank** and **Winnie
Shirley** and **Domingo
Sally** and **Chi Ming

BUSINESS

Southern Luzon lures bulk of local tourists

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SOUTHERN Luzon region attracts more domestic tourists than any other region in the country, accounting for about one-third of these local travelers, according to the National Statistics Coordination Board.

The Southern Luzon Region (Region IV), which comprises the provinces of Aurora, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Palawan, Quezon, Rizal and Romblon, is home to many famous beaches and recreation areas, most of which are just a few hours' drive from Metro Manila.

Among the favorite tourist destinations in this region are Tagaytay, the beaches and diving sites of Batangas and Puerto Galera in Mindoro as well as the hot springs of Laguna.

Between 1999 and 2002, Region IV hosted about 31 percent of the country's total domestic visitors, the NSCB reported.

In nominal terms, Southern Luzon accommodated 1.1 million domestic visitors in 1999, which went up by 184.5 percent to 3.15 million in 2000. In 2001, the region remained very attractive as 4.48 million domestic visitors went to the region. In 2002, however, visitors to the region decreased by 9.3 percent to 4.06 million.

The second most visited region is the Cordillera Administrative Region, which accounted for 13 percent of the total domestic visitors in the country.

CAR consists of Abra, Benguet, Kalinga, Apayao, Ifugao and Mountain Province. Among the region's most famous tourist attractions are Baguio City, the country's summer capital, the Banaue Rice Terraces and Sagada.

Central Visayas (Region VII) placed third in the list, accommodating about 11 percent of total local visitors. This region consists of Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

Western Visayas (Region 6) and Southern Mindanao (Region X11), respectively, had 7 percent and 6 percent of the total domestic visitors during the period.

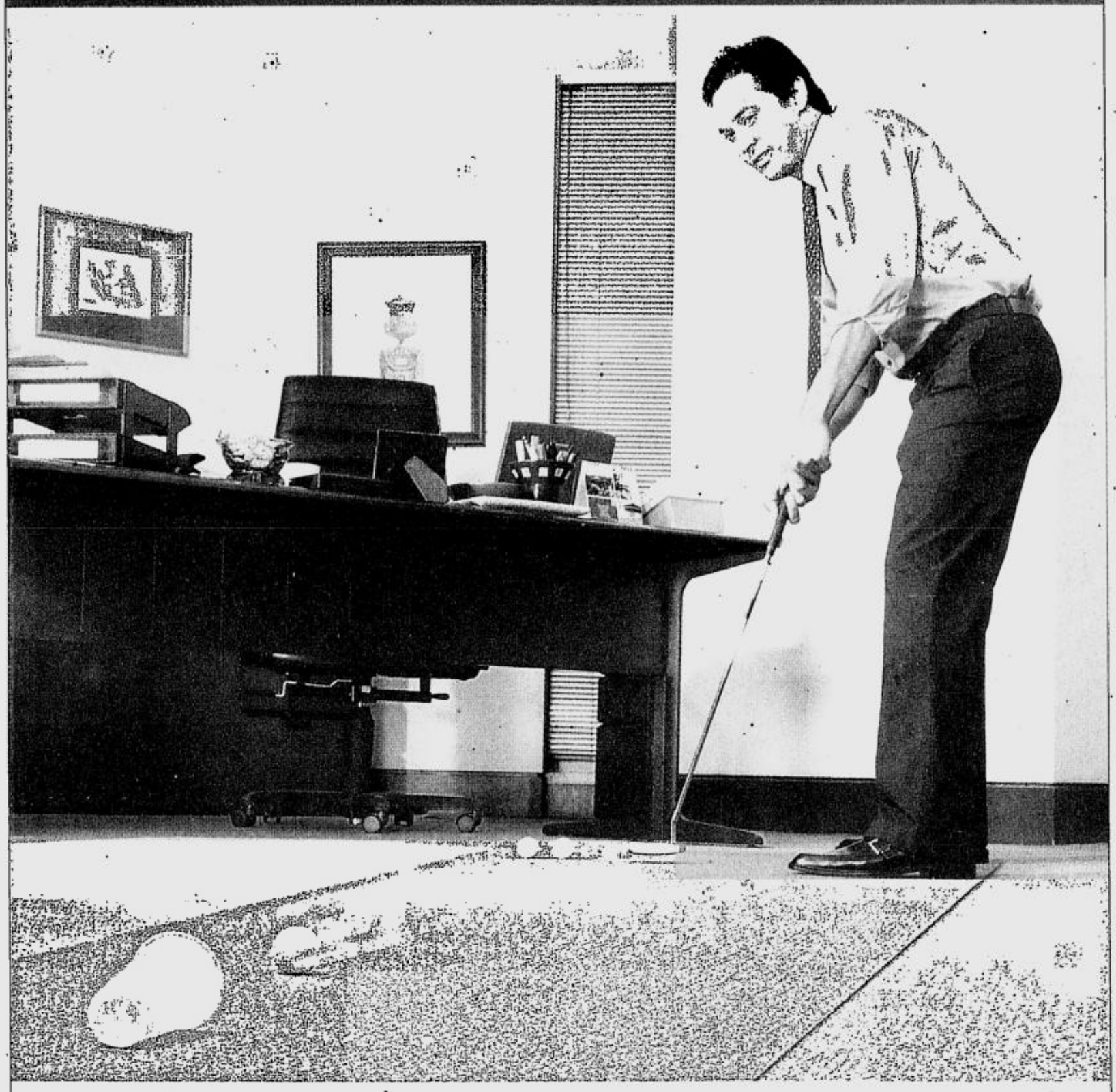
Western Visayas includes Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Antique, Guimaras and Negros Occidental while the Southern Mindanao provinces are Davao, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat.

In terms of growth, Central Luzon (Region III) exhibited the highest increase in domestic travelers in 2002, with a rate of 61.3 percent. This was followed by Mindanao with a growth of 33.8 percent and Western Visayas with 32.9 percent.

Those which suffered declines in 2002 from a year ago were Southern Luzon (9.3 percent), Western Mindanao (13.9 percent), Southern Mindanao (15.4 percent) and Caraga (1 percent).

Western Mindanao, aside from posting the highest decline in domestic tourist arrivals, was likewise the only region which consistently recorded declining number of local visitors over a three-year period due to peace and order concerns in some of its provinces.

If you're this dedicated to the game, here's a place that's dedicated to you. Ayala Greenfield Estates.



Finally, a true world-class golf community.

Designing a golf course is not all talent, ingenuity or passion for the game. Sometimes, it takes a unique ability to listen to the natural surroundings of the course to successfully sculpt it to perfection. That was how golf architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr. defined his latest work.

The builder of more than 200 golf courses in 38 countries on six continents was tapped to develop an 18-hole, all-weather course of Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna.

Ayala Greenfield Estates is considered the country's only true golf community because unlike other developments, residents are entitled to own a golf share for every lot owned. This means that every lot owner, for a minimal activation fee, can truly own a piece of this world-class golf course and experience golf right in their own backyard. Imagine waking up late in the morning and teeing off right away for a full day of golf.

Another reason making this subdivision a true golf community is its atmosphere. The cool breeze that wafts down Mt. Makiling makes playing on this championship golf course truly a relaxing experience. The scenic views afforded by the gentle Mt. Makiling, the Tagaytay ridge and surrounding Calamba also help form the picturesque backdrop for a perfect day of golf amidst the fairways and greens.

According to Jones, "nature contributes to the excitement and pleasure of playing golf. The natural playing ground becomes a venue for challenging the minds and a 'refuge' for the souls of zealous golfers." Touted as the father of environmental golf design, Jones upholds his long commitment to preserving nature in his design of the Ayala Greenfield Estates course. For example, instead of chopping off sections of one of the prominent hills in the area, the golf course will now be wrapped around its base.

As a residential/golfing destination for the whole family, Jones described Ayala Greenfield Estates as "the only place where golfers and their families can have a great time."

There will be no golf widows or orphans here. Members of the family who are not into the sport will be able to enjoy other world-class facilities within the leisure club like a spa and wellness center, bowling lanes and badminton court, plus a food and beverage facility. Now you can truly enjoy your golf minus the guilt.

Here is the neighborhood that you've always dreamed about! Ayala Greenfield Estates – the only true golf community in the country.

Created to be a true golf community, Ayala Greenfield Estates is designed with your game in mind. Here you have an environment that helps you improve and enjoy your golf. Build your dream home here and live in a neighborhood that loves the game as much as you do. Plus, you automatically get one share at the Golf & Leisure Club. Ayala Greenfield Estates. Go ahead, live the game.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2003 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre

His body of work has won him a huge following of young viewers—and that's how he likes it

Brendan Fraser lends name to worthy films

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Joanna Chan of Makati: **"I recently saw Brendan Fraser in 'The Spy.' Is he appearing in any big Hollywood production soon? More about my favorite actor, please!"**

Brendan Fraser will soon be seen in Joe Dante's "Looney Tunes: Back In Action" in a dual role as DJ Drake and the Tazmanian Devil.

The 35-year-old actor will be rubbing elbows with our favorite cartoon characters like Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Tweetie and Sylvester, Yosemite Sam, Porky Pig and Elmer Fudd.

In the movie, the Looney Tunes characters search for a man's missing father and the mythical "Blue Diamond."

FRASER. Rubs elbows with Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky Pig in his new film.

Original title

"The Spy's" original title is "The Quiet American," a German-US production that the 6'3" actor accepted for three reasons: Michael Caine, author Graham Greene (on whose novel the film was based), and the chance to travel.

About the film, he says, "I'm gratified that my name helped a film like this get made. Phillip Noyce (the director) wanted to make it for years, and selfishly, I wanted the opportunity to travel to Vietnam."

Brendan is fluent in French and speaks several European languages. He studied classical theater in college. He appeared in classics like "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Waiting For Godot."

One-line part

In 1991, Brendan won a one-line part in a film which was never released, before he landed roles in two made-for-TV movies: "Guilty Until Proven Innocent" and "Child of Darkness, Child of Light."

He was credited as "sailor #1" in River Phoenix's "Dogfight," then lead roles followed ("Encino Man," "School Ties"). After five years of playing support, he finally landed the role that dramatically altered his career—"George of the Jungle."

He balanced his commercial success by appearing in the critically acclaimed "Gods and Monsters." He strengthened his A-list status with the mammoth hit, "The Mummy," for which he was paid a hefty $4 million. In the sequel, his take-home pay tripled—to $12.5 million!

Brendan prefers playing "fish out of water" characters and roles that kids can root for and watch. He lent his voice to the animated feature, "Sinbad: Beyond the Veil of Mists." His body of work has won him a huge following of kids—and that's exactly how he likes it!

Airport

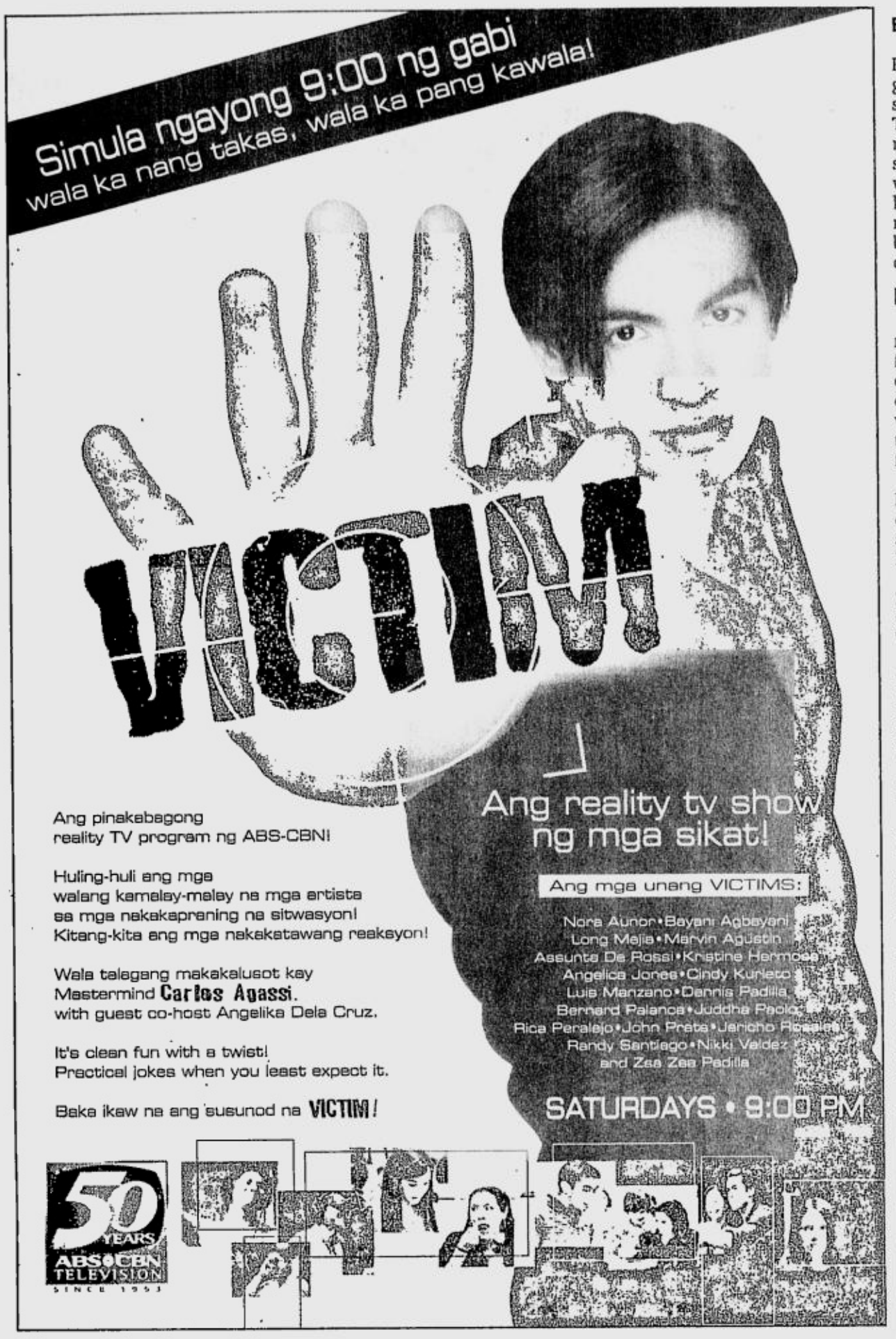
He says, "They're the most loyal and most well-meaning! One time I was in an airport, I felt somebody tug at my leg. When I looked down, I saw this small child clinging to me! Her parents must have thought, 'Why is my child holding onto that strange, tall man? —Oh, I get it! It's that guy on the video I put on to give the babysitter a rest!'"

He shares the same birthday (Dec. 3) with his wife, Afton Smith. They have a son, one-year-old Griffin Arthur. Besides his family and traveling, he admits to being very passionate about theater. He says, "It's my first love."

Thus, while in the UK shooting "The Mummy Returns," he appeared in Tony Award-winning director Anthony Page's revival of the Tennessee Williams classic, "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," on the West End.

BRENDAN/ C2

Stellar vehicles vie for popular, critical favor



By Nestor U. Torre

NICOLE Kidman and Anthony Hopkins in "The Human Stain."

FILM stars are only as good as their last screen performances. That's' why even the most popular superstars in the movie world work hard to keep coming up with new starrers that are both popular and critical hits.

Best efforts

Trouble is, there's no surefire formula for blockbusters, so even superstars' best efforts still have to await the viewing public's verdict. This film season, these are some of the stellar vehicles that will vie for viewers' favor in the coming months:

Denzel Washington is topbilling Jonathan Demme's remake of "The Manchurian Candidate," which is set during the Gulf War. He's also in "Out of Time," a thriller by Carl Franklin.

George Clooney co-stars with Catherine Zeta-Jones in the Coen brothers' "Intolerable Cruelty," and is going the sequel route with "Ocean's 12."

Russell Crowe's sea epic, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," is about to open in town. Next, he'll play a boxer in Ron Howard's "Cinderella Man," and a lead role in Ridley Scott's projected war film, "Tripoli."

Busiest star

Nicole Kidman is the busiest star in Hollywood. Her new projects include "Bewitched," "The Stepford Wives" and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," in which her co-star is Brad Pitt. Plus: "Dogville," "The Human Stain" and "Cold Mountain."—No rest for the talented!

Reese Witherspoon will be directed by Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding") in "Vanity Fair," where she'll play the pivotal role of Becky Sharp.

Will Smith will star in the sci-fi thriller, "I, Robot." And, despite the less than spectacular showing of "Men in Black 2," the third installment in the "MIB" film franchise is already on the drawing boards. Practice makes perfect?

Mike Myers is about to delight young viewers with his film version of Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat." And he'll once again voice-act the title role in the imminent sequel to "Shrek," which will be shown next year.

Remake

Jim Carrey will be directed by Steven Spielberg in the remake of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." Then he's going dramatic in "Children of the Dust Bowl."

Adam Sandler will co-star anew with Drew Barrymore in "50 First Kisses." Ben Affleck hopes to bounce back after some recent cinematic disappointments with "Tough Love" and "Jersey Girl."

Leonardo DiCaprio will play Howard Hughes in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator." Brad Pitt is expected to come on strong as Achilles in "Troy."

Jennifer Lopez co-stars with Robert Redford in "An Unfinished Life," directed by Lasse Hallstrom. Bruce Willis is slated to shoot "Me Again" with Diane Lane.

Drew Barrymore will topbill "A Confederacy of Dunces." After boosting his career with the "Matrix" trilogy, Keanu Reeves has been cast with Robert De Niro in the romantic comedy, "Yes, It's True," megged by Nancy Meyers.

It's said that only 10 percent of movies produced end up as certified hits. Let's hope that a good number of these new stellar vehicles make the grade!

Movies that have changed our lives

By Behn Cervantes

WE all know how films affect viewers, so I recently asked some moviegoers which motion pictures affected them most — and why. Their revealing responses:

"CASABLANCA." Memorable for its romantic scenes and for Bergman's translucent beauty.

Next life

Eva Elona, a secretary at UP's Speech Communication and Theater Arts Department, quickly replied: "Ghost!' Because of its story about a love that went even into the next life. *Ang ganda. Umiyak talaga ako sa pelikulang 'yon!"*

H.P. Reyes in Palm Springs, California once wrote to inform me that the song "Abadaba Honeymoon" was cutely interpreted by a very young Debbie Reynolds with Carlton Carpenter in the MGM musical, "Two Weeks With Love," starring Jane Powell.

Why did he remember that bit of trivia? "Because that musical changed my taste in movies forever! I used to watch only cowboy and war films. That movie got me interested in musicals and music thereafter."

Statement

Ronnie Amuyot, a student assistant, said "We Were Soldiers" affected him most because it was a very moving film that made a statement against war and showed that, in a war, no one comes out a true winner, especially with today's modern weapons.

Monette Flores, a faculty member at UP, said she enjoyed practically all the movies she ever saw, although she was quick to clarify that her favorites depended on the time of her life and how it affected her then.

Another viewer affected by a movie because it was that time in his life is Amiel Leonardia, chair of the UP Speech Communication and Theater Arts department, who singled out "East of Eden" because he identified with James Dean, since that was also a period of rebelliousness in his young life.

However, he recently saw "To Kill a Mockingbird" again on television and was acutely moved by the father-child relationship, as well as the racial issues dramatized in that film.

Teachers and students

Antee Bass Hernandez, another faculty member and doctoral candidate, cited "A Beautiful Mind" as the movie that affected her most. "Probably because it was about teachers and students."

However, she also singled out "The Matrix Revolutions" because it reminded her of salvation. Deep, that one!

Erica Valerio said "Saving Private Ryan" touched her most because the movie not only shows man's brutality to man in wartime, but also that one has to prove oneself all the time.

For my part, "Casablanca" remains the most memorable movie, because it was the first feature film I remember seeing right after Liberation. The translucent beauty of Ingrid Bergman, the smug toughness of Humphrey Bogart, the wry humor of Claude Rains, the eerie presence of Peter Lome and Sidney Greenstreet, the suspense and the romance—wonderful!

The classic film had all the exciting elements I have forever connected movies with. They have made me a faithful film fan and lover ever since!

Brendan Fraser lends . . . From page C1

He says, "That was a dream come true! I adored going to London when I was a child. I went to the theater regularly. I saw 'Oliver,' 'Jesus Christ Superstar'—every play I could get into, I did."

Romantic comedy

After "Looney Tunes," Brendan will be seen in Hugh Wilson's romantic comedy, "Accidental Husband," about an engaged woman (Uma Thurman) who finds out that she's already "hitched" when she tries to register for a marriage license. She successfully tracks down her alleged husband (Fraser), and all hell mirthfully breaks loose!

Brendan will then appear in Paul Haggis's "Crash," an exciting character study of a group of multi-ethnic personalities careening in and out of each other's lives. Brendan will star alongside Heath Ledger, Eva Mendes, Thandie Newton, Ludacris, Don Cheadle and Forest Whitaker. Then, he will topbill the ambitious historical saga, "The Invaders."

Asked to comment on his current status, he says, "I have so much satisfaction in my life. I have a beautiful wife and son, and the great stimulation of an interesting career!"

Nyoy has arrived as a concert artist

By Ronald G. Mangubat

THE FIRST time we saw singer/composer Nyoy Volante perform live onstage, we had no doubt that he would be a star someday.

Stage presence

This theater arts graduate has remarkable stage presence, a versatile singing voice and a contagious cheerfulness that rubs off on his audience. We were therefore not surprised when he bagged this year's Aliw Award for best new male performer.

Early last month, Nyoy Volante and his group Mannos held their first solo concert, "Loaded," at the Music Museum. It was so successful that a repeat performance, "Nyoy Volante: Reloaded," was staged at the same venue recently.

The way the concert turned out, it should have been titled "Overloaded," for that was what the SRO audience got— more than 20 songs for nearly three hours, guests, surprises, and a generous outpouring of Volante's exceptional talent.

Volante and the Mannos began the show with a slow-tempo version of Sergio Mendes' "Mais Que Nada," followed by Carlos Santana's "Smooth."

Own composition

Volante then segued to his own composition, "Nasaan?" It was only after his fourth number, a touching rendition of Stevie Wonder's "All Is Fair in Love," that he greeted the audience.

The first surprise of the evening came when Volante called the members of Mannos and enjoined them to sit in a lotus position on the stage floor, and they sang APO's "Yakap sa Dilim."

From love songs, Volante shifted to rock and rendered Queen's "We Will Rock You," after which he requested the audience to sing "Till My Heartaches End" with him.

Another surprise came when violinist Jerome Nuñez called his dad, composer-musician Alvin, to play the piano, and his sister, Cielo, to sing Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why." The young lady was a revelation! The audience just went wild watching this family of three making beautiful music together.

The highlight of the show was when Nyoy's two special guests, Nina and Regine Velasquez, joined Volante and rendered two duets each.

Admitting that she was overdressed for the concert (she was clad in a revealing and svelte aquamarine outfit), Regine drew laughter when she said, "*Sinabi ho sa akin na* informal *daw ang isuot ko, pero ganito naman talaga ang itsura ko pag nag-ma-*malling!"

The final surprise came when Volante announced that it was party time, started to sing a medley of fast songs, and displayed his terpsichorean skills.

That night, Nyoy Volante went a few notches higher, from being a mere acoustic singer to a real performer. He arrived as a concert artist.

VOLANTE. Versatile singing voice and contagious cheerfulness.

Whimsical . . .

From page C7

calling their betrothals off.

Decision

So far, so fanciful. The situation would have been less improbable if Bong and Miriam had been given time to get to know each other better, so their decision to jilt their respective partners wouldn't have come come off as such a whimsical shot in the dark.

Unfortunately, they had to make-do just with their romantic gut-feel that they were "destined" to end up together at the final fade.

Well, lots of luck to them, but, in the real world, this giddy approach would be the perfect recipe for disillusionment, as the two fervent exponents of "love at first sight" could eventually realize that they aren't what they were initially cut out to be.

Maybe that's the key to all this: the TV movie's story was meant to be a modern fantasy or romantic fairy tale that viewers shouldn't take seriously.

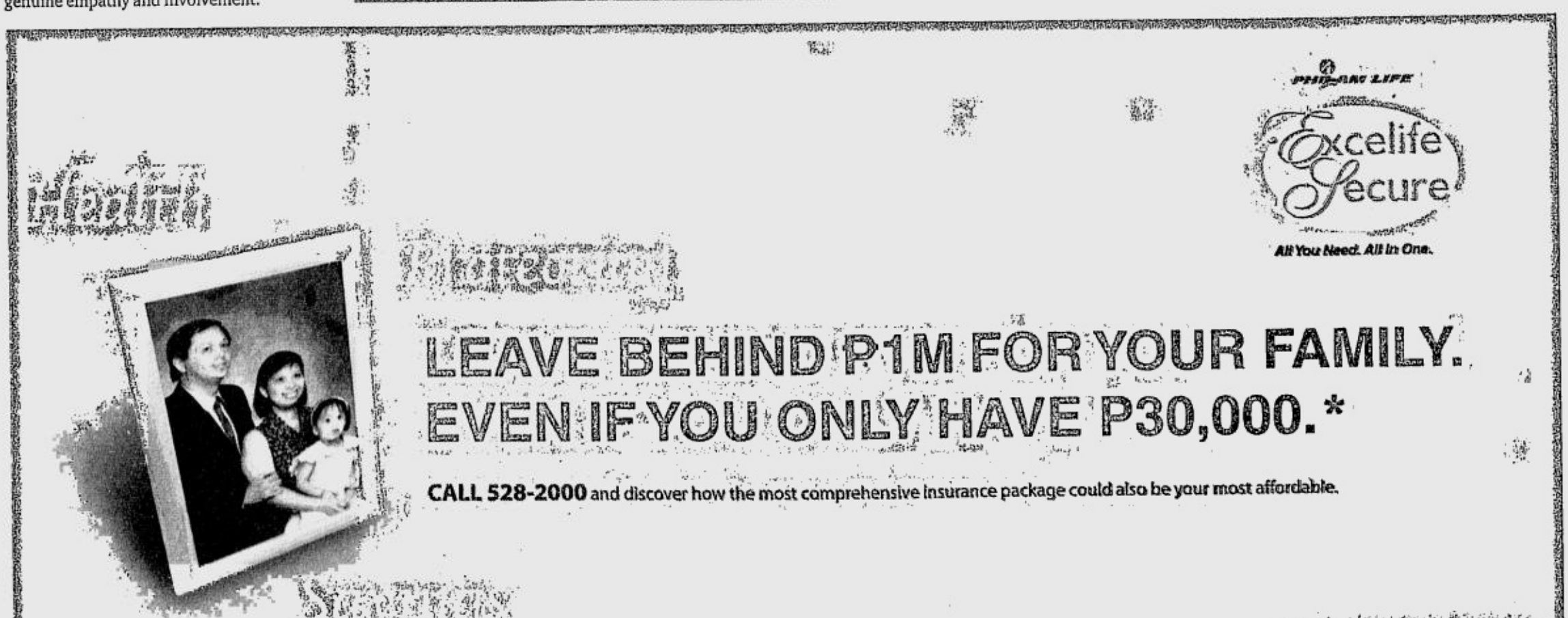
Believability

Ok, fine, but there goes the empathy. As many effective romantic comedies have proven, you *can* combine romantic *kilig* and believability. It just takes more talent, creativity and *work*, that's all—inputs that this production apparently didn't feel were particularly important or necessary.

But they *are* important, because they give a story the credibility and empathy needed to give a production's other elements logic, motivation and weight.

For example, because the TV movie's story was so whimsical, its actors' performances lacked consistency, focus and unity, and the direction was merely diverting rather than thematically clear.

The TV movie's makers should be encouraged to come up with more productions, but they should give greater weight to story and script, because these elements constitute the "engine" from which their productions would draw their requisite energy and potential for genuine empathy and involvement.



PAOLO SANTOS

Singer in search of his own sound

By Noelani Torre

HE has been, for the past few months, one of the local music scene's fastest-rising stars. He's a minor phenomenon in some ways—Paolo Santos is a skinny guy who's not your usual celebrity type, and though he's quite competent with a guitar and has a smooth, solid voice, neither is he the best guitar player nor singer in the field.

Qualities

So, why his practically meteoric rise to fame? Maybe it's these very same qualities and the "ordinariness" they imply that make him particularly attractive to his audience, most of whom are from the college and yuppie crowd.

As he himself has said, "I think it's because they see that an average person can do it. It can inspire people."

The sight of him onstage no doubt engenders hope in the breasts of informally-trained wannabe musicians—after all, a few years ago Paolo Santos himself belonged to their ranks.

Santos' background is typical bourgeois—Ateneo High, a degree in Economics from De La Salle University, a year or so abroad, etc. It's not surprising to learn that his folks weren't exactly enthusiastic about his plan to make music a profession—hence the pragmatic Economics degree fall-back.

Corporate world

In truth, Santos did try to make it in the corporate world, but the tug of music proved to be too strong to ignore, so he soon found himself doing gigs in bars, which in turn would eventually lead to his abandonment of his business career.

We must confess that we weren't particularly drawn to Paolo and his music at first—he did covers most if not all of the time, and cover artists are a centavo a dozen in this country.

After his Close Up commercial jingle, his name, not to mention the song, has become so ubiquitous (he even has a program, "Late Night Guitar With Paolo Santos," on Wave 89.1) that we find ourselves practically compelled to take a longer look—or listen, rather—at his sound.

The recent release of his first album, "Playlist" (Warner Music), gives us the chance to satisfy our curiosity not only about his vocal and guitar-playing talents, but his song-making skills as well.

Falsetto

Paolo Santos is best heard live, but his album sounds unplugged enough, dominated as it is by his now-famous falsetto and skillful strumming. More importantly, "Playlist" features 12 originals, including the aforementioned Close Up song. This means that we get to listen to the real Paolo Santos, though he does include one cover song, Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed," a particular favorite of his.

Mellow would be the adjective for "Playlist." The entire album is so laid-back that when we first listened to it late one night, we fell asleep after the fifth track. This isn't necessarily a bad thing as this tranquil air is the same quality that holds the album together, but the homogeneous features of the songs might prove to be boring for those who prefer their music to have a wider range.

Love is the album's guiding principle. The first track, "Play With Me," will probably be familiar to some as it's played occasionally by some stations.

Vaguely reminiscent of John Mayer's "Your Body Is a Wonderland" in subject matter, "Play With Me" has a catchy chorus and, like the rest of the songs, a guitar-driven base.

13 tracks

The album has a total of 13 tracks, counting a remix of "Coffee Cup," a song we feel ambivalently towards. We have no beef with its musicality, but some of the lines make us cringe, like "As your smooth and silky presence gallantly approached the curb." Spare us the inapproriate adverbs, please.

Still, the album has its better moments, including a lovely interpretation of "Overjoyed," and the more natural-sounding Tagalog songs, "Mapansin" and "Eto Na."

"Playlist" shows us that Paolo Santos still needs time to grow away from his influences—the album's sound is more an amalgamation, rather than something uniquely his.

Nevertheless, it's possible to derive a measure of quiet enjoyment from this CD, and Santos is a promising talent who, if he finds his own sound, will prove to be more than just the figurehead of a passing fad.

"PLAYLIST." Its tranquil air holds the album together.

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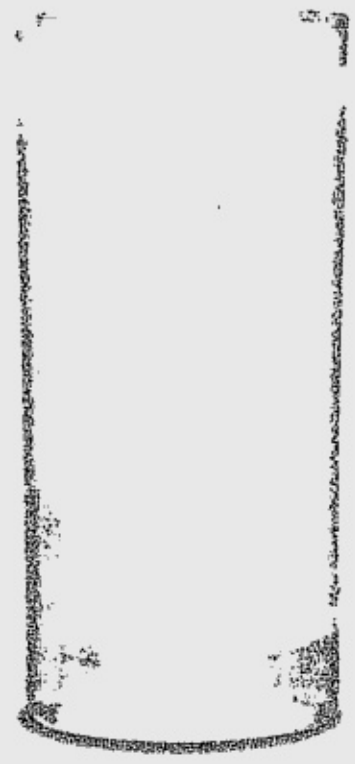

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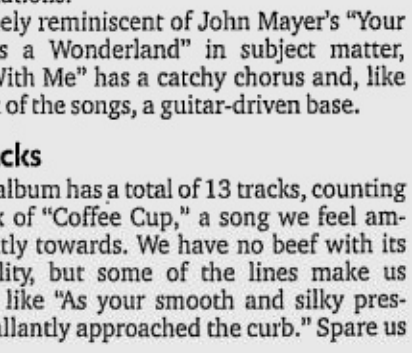

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Italian adventure with the fabulous Elvira recalled

By Nestor U. Torre

(Continuation)

AFTER Elvira Manahan and I managed to escape the dark scowls of immigration officials at the airport in Rome, thanks to the timely intercession of the Philippine ambassador to Italy, our Italian Adventure could finally begin. Being a veteran and expert jetsetter, Elvira had her hotel in Rome booked way in advance. What about me?

Searchlights

"Oh," I mumbled," it's all been—uh, don't worry about me."

"Really?," Elvira asked dubiously, her large orbs poking like searchlights into my disorganized and spontaneous soul.

"Yes, really," I managed to assure her with a weak smile.

So, I took her to her elegant hotel near the Spanish Steps, and after making sure that she liked her room enough for her to stay there for the five days we had allotted to the city of Rome (you never really knew with her), I agreed to pick her up for dinner that night, and left for my own modest lodgings.

—Uh, excuse me, I had to remind myself, there was no such place already booked for me. True to my vagabond nature and the slim condition of my resources, I hadn't made a reservation at any hotel.

MANAHAN. Booked her elegant hotel room way in advance.

Foreign city

You see, my style of traveling for the past many years has been to just arrive at a foreign city, get myself a street map and a transportation guide, and look for a budget pension on foot.

I could do that because I had learned to travel very lightly, so I could just sling my solitary bag over my shoulder and walk from pension to pension, until I found a place so inexpensive that even cheapskate *moi* couldn't afford to pass it up.

Well, there I was in the environs of the pricey Via Condotti area near the Spanish Steps, asking one pension manager after another for a really cheap place to rest my weary head. The prices quoted were much less than the going rate at Elvira's hotel, but they were still too steep for me, so I began to feel like St. Joseph escorting the very pregnant Blessed Virgin Mary from inn to inn, to inn—except that I was all alone.

Then, for some strange, wonderful, even semi-miraculous reason, I wearily staggered into this tiny pension on a street with a neighborhood market nearby, and heard the manager say that he could give me "a small room with a view" for only $12. That amount was less than 10 percent of what Elvira was paying at her hotel, and affordable even for miserly me, so—"I'll take it!"

Balcony

Well, the Roman god of hostelry must have been grinning at me that day, because my second-floor room *did* have a view, and a balcony, to boot. Never mind that its shower stall was situated, not in the bathroom (there was none) but in the middle of my tiny room—its view of old buildings above and colorful street life below was worth the long walk I had invested in snagging this budget find.

I became so fond of that balcony that I practically lived there, endlessly entertained by the constantly shifting crowd scene below, a veritable *la dolce vita* scenario for a budget traveler like me.

That first night in Rome, Elvira and I had dinner with her friend, Rome-based sculptor Tomas Concepcion and some of his Italian buddies, at an outdoor cafe. I was introduced to *osso bucco, antipasti* galore, wine overflowing, and the stinkiest pasta I had ever eaten.

I loved everything—the robust food, the color, the noise, the late hours people kept, the exuberance with which they said or did the most ordinary things—and told myself that I could live here Forever. —Or, at some $17 total expenses per day on my *kuripot* world traveler's budget, maybe three months?

(To be continued)

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Soc Villanueva finally scores a hit

VILLANUEVA. Composer of "Kung Ako Na Lang Sana."

By Andy P. Bais

COMING UP with a hit song is every songwriter's dream. While a few lucky ones score a hit on their first try, most songwriters have to wait for years—like Soc Villanueva, who finally clinched his first hit after writing songs for 20 years!

Winner

The song, "Kung Ako Na Lang Sana, " was Soc's entry to last year's Himig Handog songwriter's competition.

From the very start, Soc felt he had a winner. His hunch was right—the song, interpreted by Bituin Escalante, won the grand prize.

It became so popular that Star Cinema used it as the title of a Sharon Cuneta-Aga Muhlach starrer that made a killing at the tills.

Aside from being a commercial success, "Kung Ako ...' also reaped critical acclaim. In this year's Awit awards, the popular love song won as Record of the Year and Best Produced Record of the Year.

What is it about the song that has made it popular with all sectors?

It's different because it's a love song from the point of view of a woman who is secretly in love with her male friend, who is in turn involved with another woman.

"Pinoy love songs are generally predictable, with lyrics like *'Nagkahiwalay tayo dati, sana tayo uli;'* or *'Huwag mo akong iwanan kasi luluha ako, sabi mo hindi ka aalis.'*

"I want to prove that you can write love songs with a twist. *Dapat may* intrigue! Lines like: *'Huwag mo akong iwanan mag-isa, baka ako maghanap ng iba.'*

"That's why I write songs from the point of view of the other woman, who is always the villain. But no one cares about how she feels. That's the challenge for me," Soc explains.

First three lines

For a song to be really effective with listeners, its first three lines should catch their attention, Soc observes. *"Kasi kapag masarap na sa umpisa, tapos pasasarapin pa sa* refrain, fulfillment *na 'yon* for the listeners."

Soc starts to write a song with a concept in mind. *"Wala akong iniisip na tono o* lyrics. I just think of a very good concept or story that has to be different. Usually, *nabubuo ko 'yon sa haba ng* traffic, *o sa banyo,"* he grins.

Soc, an accountant by profession, has lost track of the number of songs he has written. "But they could be more than a hundred, with around 50 of them recorded," he says.

Challenge

He can't imagine himself writing songs like the current novelty favorite, "Ocho-Ocho," but admits that writing such songs could be a challenge.

Ryan Cayabyab, George Canceco and Willy Cruz are the songwriters he admires. "Until now, *naririnig pa rin natin ang mga* songs *nila.* And that's one way of testing the success of a songwriter," he says.

How's songwriting as a profession? *"Hindi nakakabuhay ng pamilya,* unless you come up with many hits. OK *sa* States, *kasi* organized *ang pag-*collect *ng* royalties. Here, *nasa* infancy stage *pa tayo.* Royalty *sa* sales, *madaling kunin.* But *sa* public performance, it's hard to monitor," he sighs.

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Whimsical shot in the dark

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW that making movies for the big screen has become more expensive, the production of TV movies should be encouraged. That's why we made it a point to view the telemovie, "Sa Di Inaasahang Pagkakataon," starring Bong Revilla and Miriam Quiambao, at 9:30 p.m. on GMA-7 last Nov. 16.

Diverting

At first, the intimate film was diverting enough, with its lively and with-it visual treatment. It was also interesting to see Bong essaying a non-action role that didn't require him to punch anybody in the kisser.

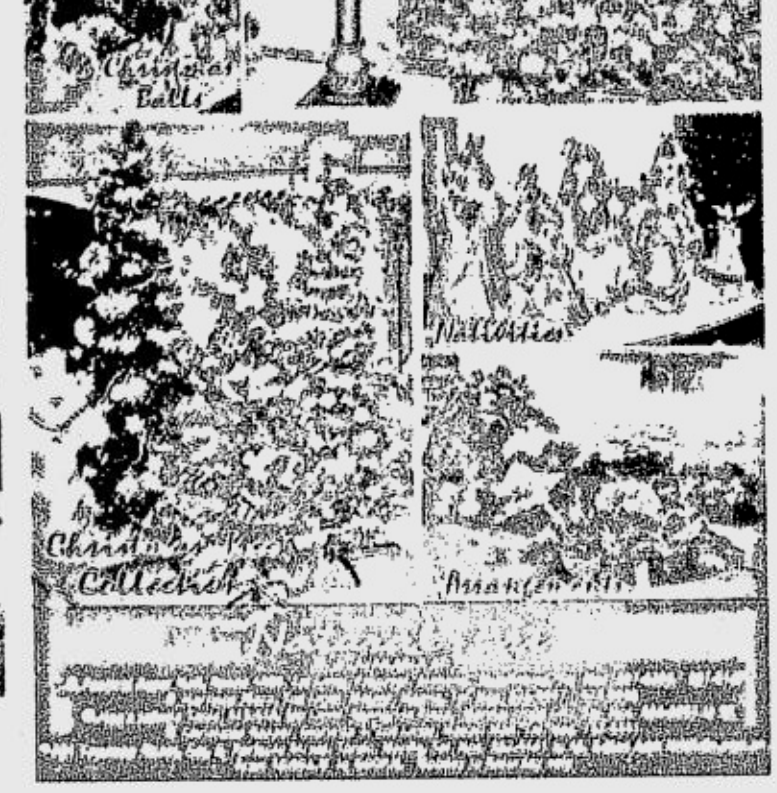
Miriam's first lead performance was similarly pleasing, and she held her own in her scenes with her more experienced leading man.

After a while, however, the production's weak and improbable story began pulling the TV movie down.

The film's conceit was that Bong and Miriam were engaged to be married to other people, but the moment they laid eyes on each other, they began to have doubts about tying the knot with their respective sweethearts.

After some hemming and hawing and avoiding the "inevitable," they finally ended up

WHIMSICAL/ E3



REVILLA. Interesting to see in a non-action role.

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Deficiency in "energy vitamins" impairs the conversion of food into energy leading to weight loss, weakness and susceptibility to common ageing-related diseases such as Alzheimer's, arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

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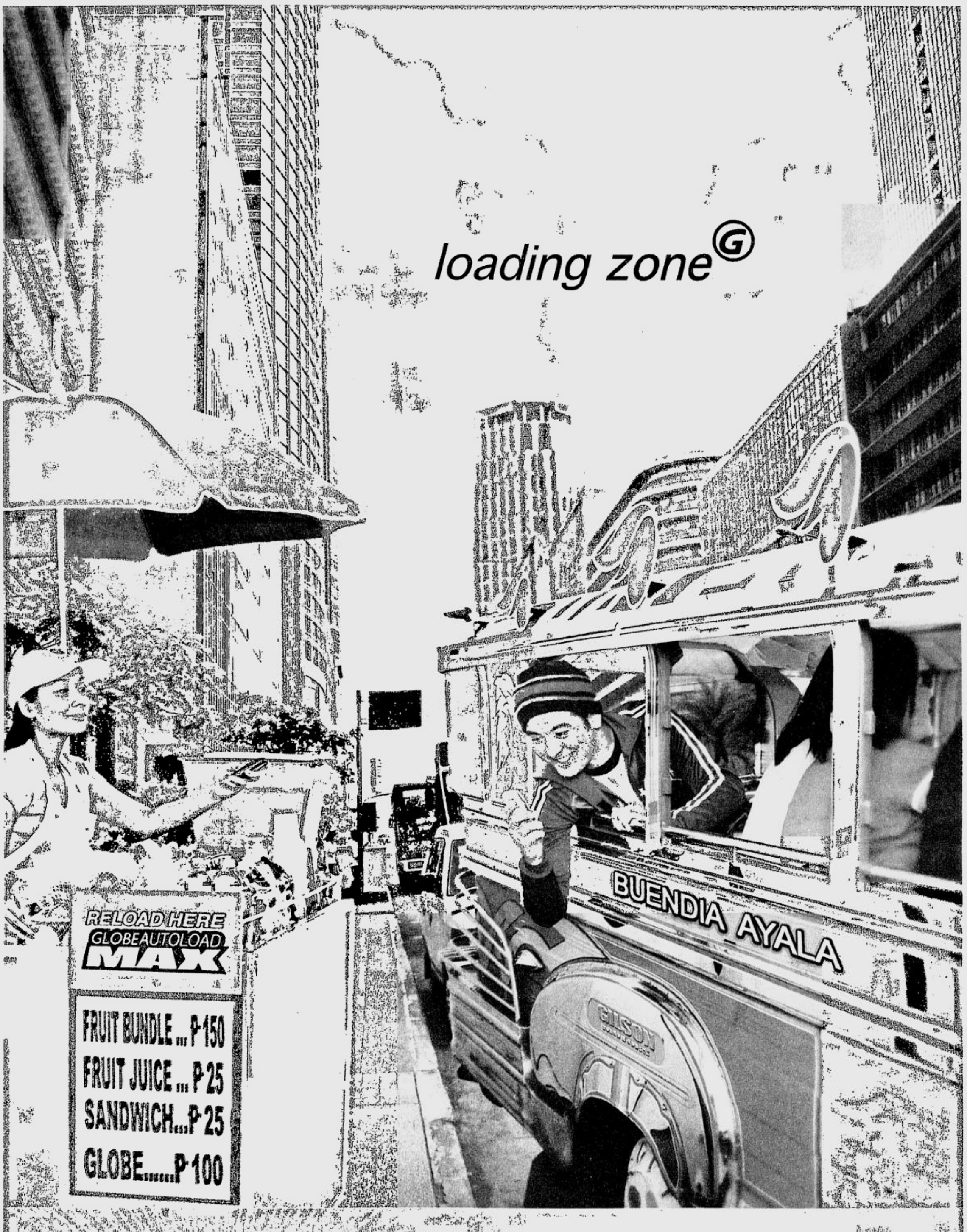

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Top film actresses are a varied lot

By Nestor U. Torre

IN a movie field dominated by male stars, some women have been able to make their own mark. The fourth most popular star in the film world (after Tom Hanks, Tom Cruise and Mel Gibson) is **Julia Roberts.**

Relative inactivity

Like her top male counterparts, Roberts rates the top industry fee of $25 million per feature film. This, despite the less than good showing of some of her starrers, plus her relative inactivity this past year.

But Roberts hopes to make her mark anew with her next stellar vehicle, "Mona Lisa Smile." Many people are hoping that she'll come up with another hit, since she has impressed them with her talent, versatility and good work ethic.

Much more active than Roberts of late is **Nicole Kidman,** who has successfully bounced back from the break-up of her 10-year marriage to Tom Cruise.

Although she gets only half of what Roberts is paid, Kidman has topped huge blockbusters like "Moulin Rouge," which enjoys the added cachet of having revived the musical format in movies.

Range

She has also impressed people with her range as an actress in challenging projects like "The Hours." Thus, she has proven that she's in the movies for the long run, and can be expected to keep coming up with admirable characterizations for many years to come.

Both Roberts and Kidman have been film stars for more than a decade, but the third most popular movie actress, **Reese Witherspoon,** is younger, and more unconventional superstar material.

She's no great beauty, but has charmed millions of viewers with her pert, ditzy portrayals, most significantly in the "Legally Blonde" movies. Also unusual is the stellar path to the top that she's taken—in comedies, rather than the more traditional dramatic route.

It's interesting and instructive to note that Witherspoon is an even bigger star these days than sexier actresses like Jennifer Lopez and Cameron Diaz.

More consistent

For her part, Lopez boosted her career with "Maid In Manhattan," but stumbled with "Gigli." Diaz was more consistent, with the good showing of "Charlie's Angels" and "Gangs of New York."

Still, Witherspoon has outpaced even these hot-to-trot comers, proving that comedy is one of the top film formats this season.

In the "Legally Blonde" films, Witherspoon's characterizations have been likened to the ditzy blondes Marilyn Monroe used to portray in well-loved movies like "Some Like It Hot" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." Truth to tell, however, Witherspoon's signature screen persona is closer to Judy Holliday's in "Bells Are Ringing."

Roberts, Kidman and Witherspoon, Hollywood's top three female stars today, are quite different from each other in talent and appeal. This shows that moviegoers' preferences have become more varied, and no longer strictly follow fads and trends.—A good thing all around!

WITHERSPOON. Charmed viewers with pert, ditzy portrayals.

ROBERTS. Fourth most popular star in the film world.

AFI cites top 100 movie tunes

By Bob Tourtellotte

SPRINGSTEEN. His theme song for "Philadelphia" made the list.

LOS ANGELES—It's shaping up as a battle between "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" Dorothy and "The Way We Were" Babs, old-time crooner Bing and The Boss, Bruce Springsteen.

Favorite music

The American Film Institute on Tuesday unveiled 400 songs vying to be the favorite music in films as part of its "100 years" series of annual events spotlighting film history.

"100 Years ... 100 Songs" is the seventh list put together by the American Film Institute, or AFI, which is one of the United States' top groups for film preservation and education.

Starting in 1998 with "100 Years . . . 100 Movies," AFI has compiled lists of "100 Years . . . 100 Passions" for romance, "100 Years . . . 100 Laughs" for comedy, and last year's "100 Years . . . 100 Heroes & Villains," among others.

This year, AFI chose music because, since movies first featured sound, song has been an integral part of storytelling.

First talking picture

Even the movie credited with being the first talking picture, 1927's "The Jazz Singer," was about a guy who dreams of making music.

"We chose songs that filmmakers used to help tell their stories," said Bob Gazzale, director of AFI productions, which will put on a broadcast in June next year where the top 100 songs will be unveiled.

As modern examples, Gazzale offered the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive" from 1977's "Saturday Night Fever" or Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock & Roll," to which Tom Cruise dances in 1983's "Risky Business"—songs so identifiable that when people hear them, they think of the movies.

Classic tunes making the list include "As Time Goes By," from 1942's "Casablanca." Several movies had more than one song, such as 1965's "The Sound of Music," which featured not only the title song, but "Do-Re-Mi" and "My Favorite Things."

Crooner

Crooner Bing Crosby has the most songs, 12, including 1936's "Pennies From Heaven" and 1942's "White Christmas" from "Holiday Inn." Springsteen made the list with 1993's "Streets of Philadelphia" from "Philadelphia."

Judy Garland, teenage dreamer Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz," is the most nominated female singer with nine songs to Barbra "The Way We Were" Streisand's eight.

The 1950s, which were filled with musicals like 1952's "Singin' In the Rain," was the most represented decade, with 67 songs making the list of nominees.

Reuters

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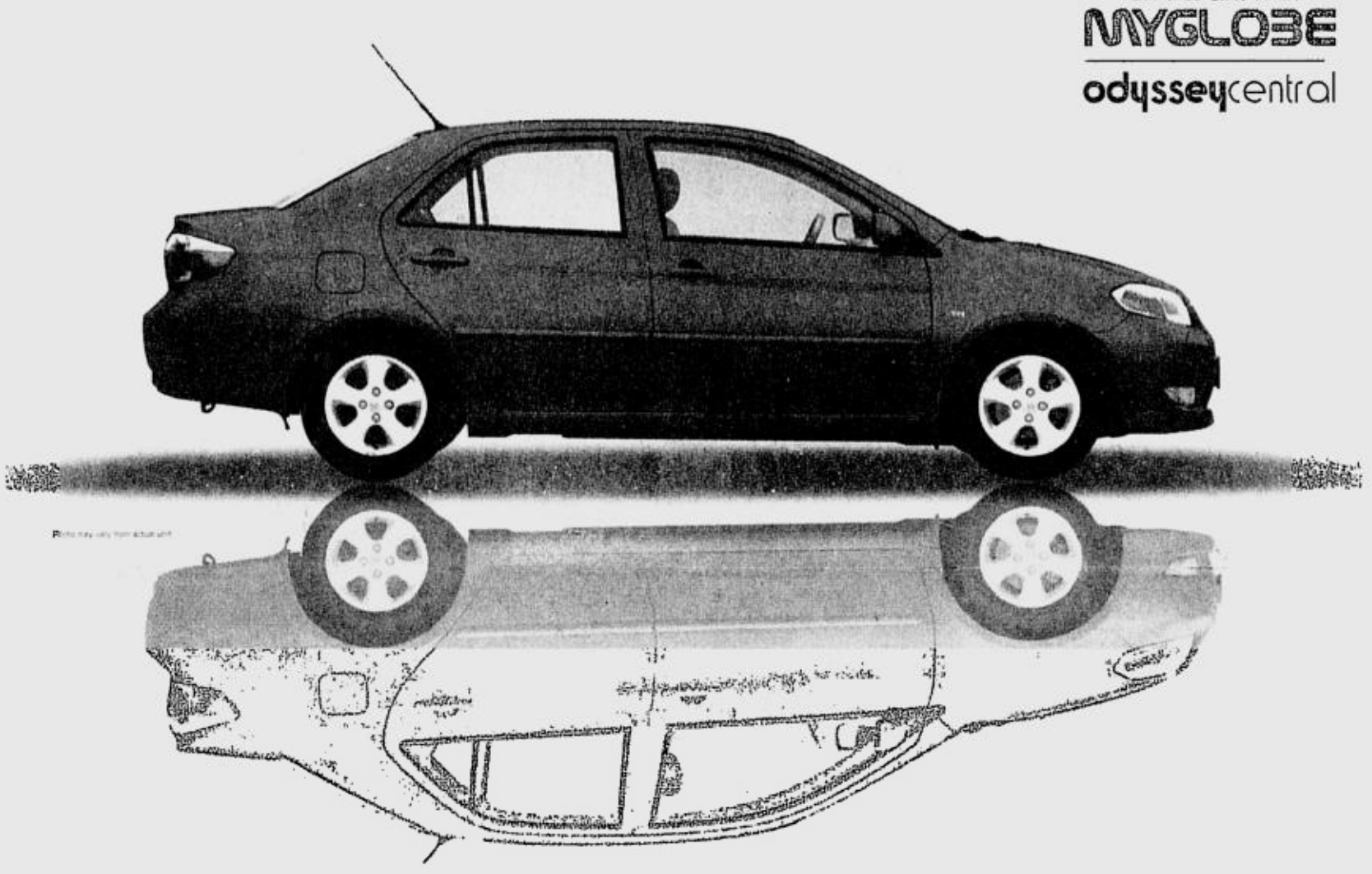

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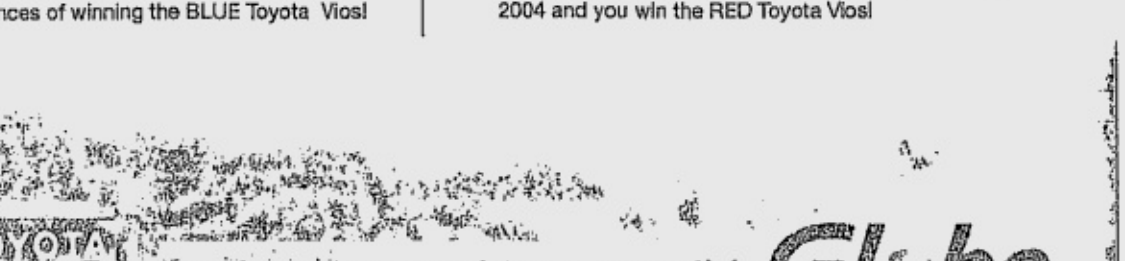

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Healthcare for people empowerment

ON the occasion of the 20th death anniversary of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, the People Power People Movement was created by former President Corazon Aquino. She cited groups and individuals who embody the spirit and ideals of Edsa.

In Mrs. Aquino's own words, these people follow the "path of sustained service to God and country . . . working quietly, willingly, neither seeking nor getting publicity but making a real difference in their communities."

One of the organizations cited is the Leaders for Health Project, the biggest social responsibility program of Pfizer Philippines, in partnership with the Department of Health and the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

LEADERS for Health team receiving the People Power People Award from Corazon Aquino (center): From left, Dr. Robert Philip Briones, Pfizer president Gerry E. Bacarro, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, AGSB Dean Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, Benigno S. Aquino Foundation president Cesar Buenaventura, Rep. Noynoy Aquino, Karen Villanueva and Mayor Edgar Andanar.

This project was created as a response to the need for quality healthcare that will be accessible to all Filipinos, especially those who live in remote areas.

Problem

The problem with the country's healthcare delivery system has gotten so serious that, out of a

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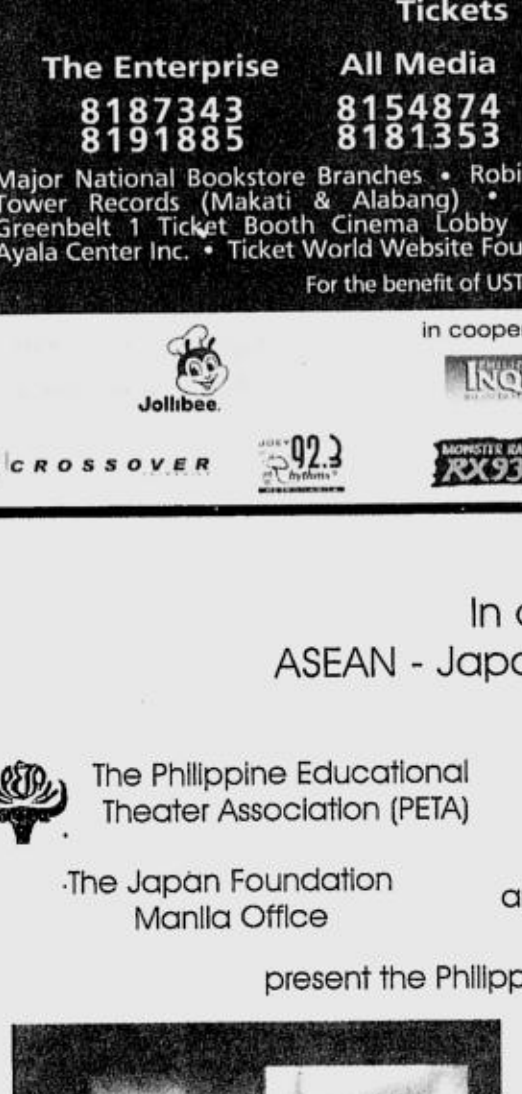

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Vandross, 50 Cent win American Music Awards

LOS ANGELES—Soul singer Luther Vandross, who is recovering from a debilitating stroke that threatened to end not only his career but also his life, won two American Music Awards on Sunday.

The 52-year-old singer can speak and walk with assistance, but representatives recently said he remains far from fully recovered.

Most recent CD

He was honored as best male R&B performer and for favorite soul-R&B album for his most recent CD, "Dance with My Father," which was completed shortly before his stroke in April.

Mary Vandross, his mother, accepted the male performer award on his behalf.

"I'm so very sorry that Luther cannot be here tonight in person," she told the crowd, after a brief moment of tearful speechlessness. "I'm here to represent him and say thanks to all of you who made this possible."

"The Shield" star Michael Chiklis walked into the audience to present the second award to the elderly woman, who had difficulty climbing the stage steps the first time.

Tough-guy rapper 50 Cent also won two awards for best male rap artist and best rap-hip-hop album for "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," a gritty CD about his many brushes with death on the street.

50 Cent, who often wears a bullet-proof vest, has been shot nine times and stabbed. Born to a teenage mother who dealt drugs and was killed when he was 8, he started dealing drugs before he was a teenager.

23rd trophy

Alabama collected its 23rd American Music Award trophy, this one for favorite country group. The quartet, which is currently on its farewell concert tour, has more AMA wins than any other performer—followed by Michael Jackson with 21 and Kenny Rogers with 19.

The late soul songstress Aaliyah was honored as best female R&B artist, her third American Music Award since she died in a plane crash in 2001.

Missy Elliott was late picking up her trophy for female rap-hip-hop artist.

"Somebody stole my limo, but I'm here now," she said, taking the stage to collect her prize later in the show. "I'll need a ride home. Can somebody get me back to the hotel, please?"

MTV's "Newlyweds" pop stars Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson announced the award for female country artist, which Faith Hill won.

"All I've ever wanted to do is just stand onstage and sing, and you fans have made it possible time and time again," said Hill, who has four previous American Music Awards.

HILL. Favorite female country artist. AP

VANDROSS. Top male R&B performer.

Second award

Her household received a second award when husband Tim McGraw won favorite male country artist. They also won separate American Music Awards together in 2001 and 2002.

Toby Keith's "Unleashed" won him his first American Music Award for country album.

Linkin Park won the alternative artist category, while gospel star Steven Curtis Chapman was victorious in the contemporary inspirational class.

Other winners included Ricky Martin for favorite Latin star, and soul veterans The Isley Brothers for best R&B group. Best rap/hip-hop group went to Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz, and rock 'n' roll mainstay Fleetwood Mac received the award for favorite rock group.

More than a dozen performers had double bids going into Sunday's ceremony, including Dion, 50 Cent, and pop star Justin Timberlake.

Timberlake's CD "Justified" won favorite pop album, Jennifer Lopez claimed best pop-rock female artist and pop diva Celine Dion was picked favorite adult contemporary artist.

Live telecast

The awards were presented during a live ABC telecast from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, with late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel as master of ceremonies.

Nominations were based on sales figures and radio play, and winners were selected by a survey of about 20,000 listeners.

The American Music Awards was shifted from its usual January date to November, cutting the nominations window by about two months.

The move was made in part to avoid the crush of other ceremonies, such as the Oscars, Golden Globes and Grammys, that will be competing for attention at the beginning of next year. *AP*

Sexy flicks dominate local film output

By Nestor U. Torre

A VETERAN producer floored some film industry leaders recently when he observed that sexy flicks had taken over the local movie scene so completely that, of every five films produced this year, three were sexy sleazies and cheapies.

Ratio

We think that the ratio is too high. But, even if it were two to one, the situation would still be shockingly untenable, indicating a grievous crisis in the Filipino movie industry's existence.

If we've practically been reduced to a country producing mostly sexy or soft-porn productions, why bother making movies at all? Why persist in calling local filmmaking a legit industry?

Our producers say they're as unhappy as many viewers are about the situation, and have been practically forced to make mostly sexy flicks to keep the people in their employ from starving. They blame local viewers for their colonial mentality, which has prompted them to reject Filipino productions in favor of bigger, glitzier Hollywood imports.

Most economical

Thus, local producers have been making sex flicks because they're the most economical movies to produce. Even if they don't make a whole lot of money at the box office, they still end up in the black, so producers can make more films, and keep the local industry alive. How noble!

For their part, some local viewers say they've stopped patronizing Filipino movies not because they've gone completely ga-ga over American films, but because local productions have become predictable, lazy, shoddy and uncreative.

If Filipino filmmakers work really hard to come up with superior, well-produced films, the Filipino moviegoing public will go out of its way to support those outstanding productions.

Proof positive

For proof positive, viewers point to the huge box-office showing of such substantial local productions as "Jose Rizal," "Tanging Yaman" and "Muro-Ami." But they stress that all those hit films weren't quickies and sleazies, and were patronized because viewers sensed that those productions weren't taking them for granted.

Trouble is, few producers today are prepared to invest a lot of money on a special production, thus the predominant thrust to make cheap sex flicks, which is not only giving the movie industry a sordid reputation in the eyes of the public, but also sending it roaring down a one-way spiral to utter helplessness and creative irrelevance.

If the country's film leaders, artists and viewers don't unite in a coordinated move to pull local movies out of its downward spiral, we may not have much of a film industry to speak of.

Income

What could happen is, the film scene would be overwhelmed even more by soft-porn producers, while the more legit productions would move to the television field in the form of *telecines*.

As it is, local TV is already more of a happening medium than the movies, and its income is increasing even as movie earnings decrease.

But we don't want that to happen, because TV's small screen can't do justice to some of the movies that should be made, the scope and pertinence of which deserve the big screen of the cinema as their proper canvas. So, we trust that the local movie industry *can* be saved from itself, or from the negative influence of its least gifted and most irresponsible elements.

Healthcare for . . . From page D2

population of 80 million people, 40 percent go through life and die without seeing a doctor.

Leadership

This Pfizer project aims to contribute by developing a corps trained to provide effective and strategic leadership of the Philippine healthcare system at various levels.

Volunteer doctors will be equipped with knowledge and skills before going into the community to encourage members to be proactive in the promotion of their own health. This encourages members of a community to actively take part in their local government's pursuit of a better healthcare environment.

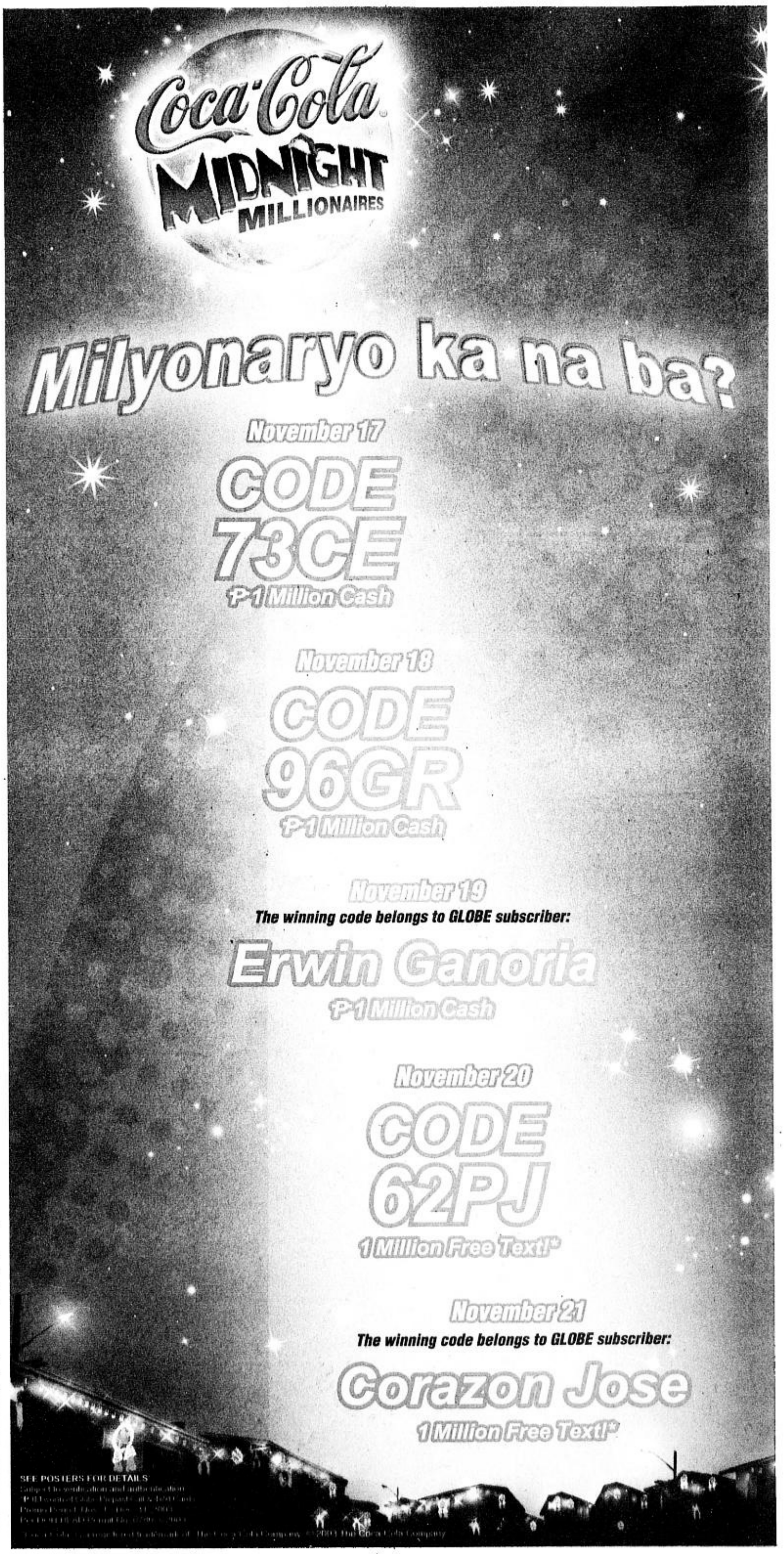
To achieve this, the Leaders for Health Project enables participating local chief executives and community leaders to undergo capacity-enhancement workshops.

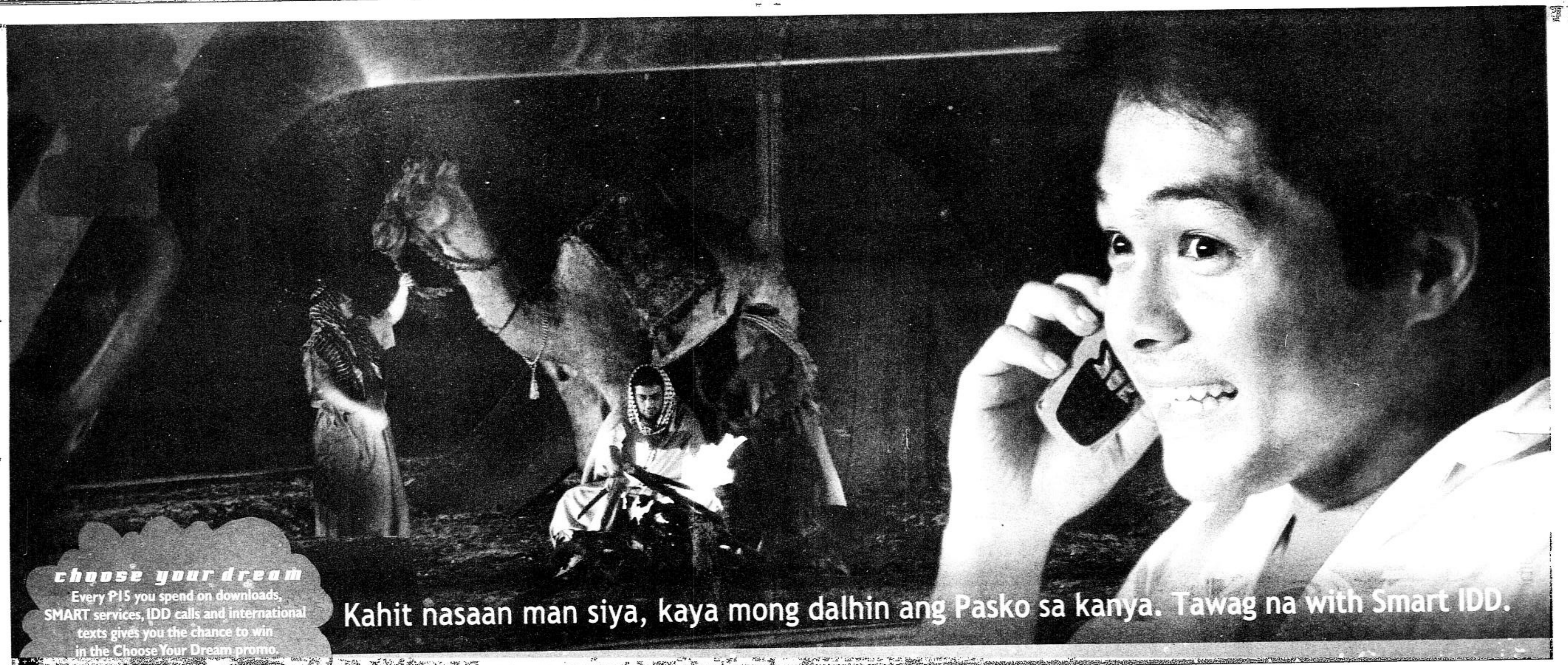
The program is being implemented in 20 fifth and sixth-class municipalities in strategic areas. Volunteer doctors have been serving between 50 to 80 people a day.

Photoworkshop

The Mandy Navasero Photoworkshop will hold a class in Digital Photography with hands-on exercises and critique from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 25, 27 and 29, at Mandy Navasero Studio, Rm. 207, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo st.), Bel-Air II, Makati City. Sponsors are Fuji Film, Apperture Trading and Avenue Photo Supply.

Guest lecturer is David Hanson. Call 522-1905 or 522-5189 or e-mail mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph.





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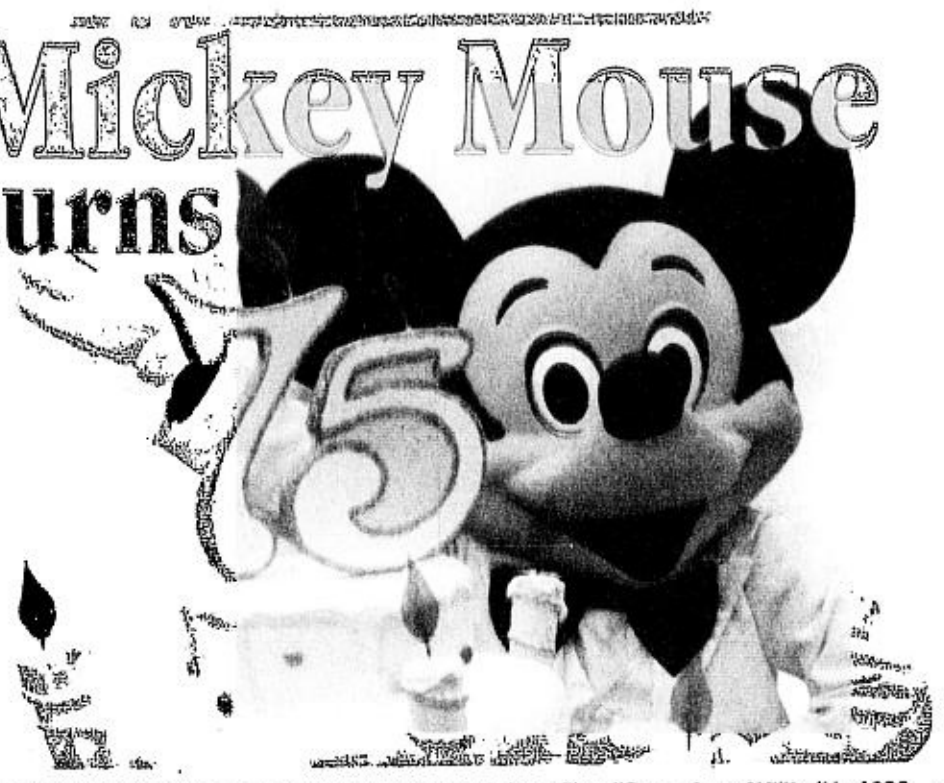


MICKEY MOUSE. First appeared in the animated short film, "Steamboat Willie," in 1928. AFP

LOS ANGELES—Mickey Mouse, the rodent who built a multibillion-dollar business empire, turned 75 last Tuesday, but at an age at which most stars retire, this one is looking to conquer the digital world.

Walt Disney's most famous round-eared creation, whose face and silhouette are familiar to generations of children across the world, first appeared on Nov. 18, 1928 in the animated short film, "Steamboat Willie."

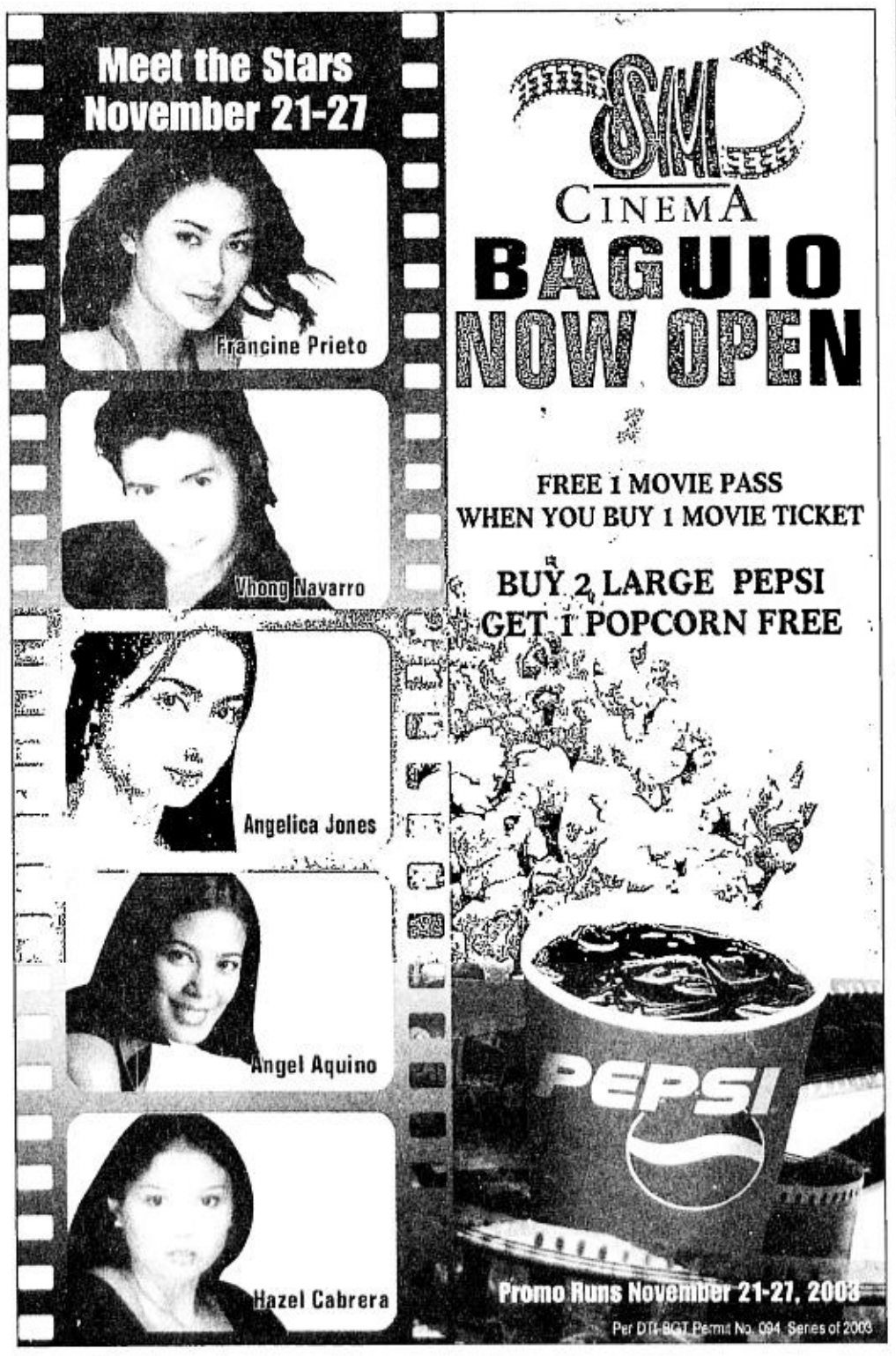
Since then, he has become an icon of 20th-century America, and has come to symbolize one of the world's largest entertainment empires that has long been referred to by Hollywood's press as the "Mouse House."

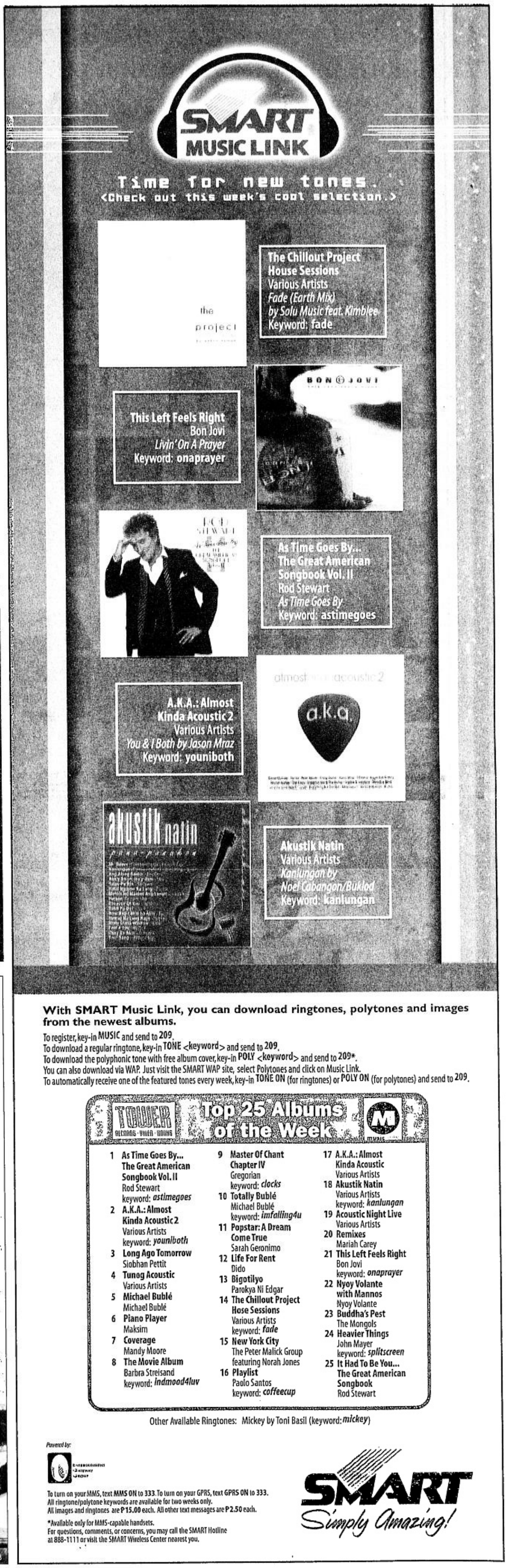
Archive director

"Mickey is able to adapt to anything that comes up," Dave Smith, Disney archive director and a 33-year veteran of the Mouse House, told AFP. "He will be up at the top for at least the next 25 years."

Mickey was conceived on a train in early

MICKEY/ E3





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Tower Records Top 25 Albums of the Week

1 As Time Goes By... The Great American Songbook Vol. II — Rod Stewart — keyword: *astimegoes*
2 A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic 2 — Various Artists — keyword: *younlboth*
3 Long Ago Tomorrow — Siobhan Pettit
4 Tunog Acoustic — Various Artists
5 Michael Bublé — Michael Bublé
6 Piano Player — Maksim
7 Coverage — Mandy Moore
8 The Movie Album — Barbra Streisand — keyword: *indmood4luv*
9 Master Of Chant Chapter IV — Gregorian — keyword: *clocks*
10 Totally Bublé — Michael Bublé — keyword: *imfalling4u*
11 Popstar: A Dream Come True — Sarah Geronimo
12 Life For Rent — Dido
13 Bigotilyo — Parokya Ni Edgar
14 The Chillout Project House Sessions — Various Artists — keyword: *fade*
15 New York City — The Peter Malick Group featuring Norah Jones
16 Playlist — Paolo Santos — keyword: *coffeecup*
17 A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic — Various Artists
18 Akustik Natin — Various Artists — keyword: *kanlungan*
19 Acoustic Night Live — Various Artists
20 Remixes — Mariah Carey
21 This Left Feels Right — Bon Jovi — keyword: *onaprayer*
22 Nyoy Volante with Mannos — Nyoy Volante
23 Buddha's Pest — The Mongols
24 Heavier Things — John Mayer — keyword: *splitscreen*
25 It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook — Rod Stewart

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Auditions for new production of 'Magsimula Ka' at CCP on Nov. 25

GINES Tan's acclaimed musical, "Magsimula Ka," will be mounted anew for a fundraising Outreach tour for the Cultural Center of the Philippines early next year.

The musical has helped launch the careers of current entertainment and musical-theater personalities like Robert Seña, Isay Alvarez, Jograd dela Torre, Rina Reyes and Gigi Posadas. The new 2004 production hopes to similarly give a boost to the fledging careers of other outstanding performing talents.

Auditions for the musical will be held at the CCP's Huseng Batute basement theater this Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 1 p.m. Child and adult singers, actors and dancers are invited to audition. Please bring recent color photos, close-up and full-body. For more details, call audition master Andy Bais at 713-9323 and 0919-2065424.

We believe in Filipino musical talents—and we believe even more strongly that they should be helped at the *start* of their careers, when they need the assistance, training and showcasing most.

"Magsimula Ka" has proven to be one of the best shows to do this, because it has a number of challenging lead and supporting roles that give performers a very good showcase to share with the audience the very best they can do, either as singers, actors or dancers or—even better, in a dazzling combination of all three skills!

We trust that gifted, committed and determined performers will take advantage of this opportunity to share their talents with audiences all over the country, and to help raise funds for the CCP's important cultural projects. See you on Tuesday!

'Stones in His Pockets'

Do try to watch New Voice Company's current production, "Stones in His Pockets" at the Republic of Malate tonight and next weekend (call 896-6695). Rito Asilo directs Michael Williams and Jamie Wilson in an acting *tour de force* that requires the two actors to play a dizzying number of characters.

'Himala'

We watched a performance of "Himala," the musical, at the CCP last week, and found ourselves caught up in a flood of musical memories involving a number of the production's cast members:

Isay Alvarez plays Nimia in "Himala," but our memories of her were of her early years as a musical-theater lead, working with us in '80s and '90s original Filipino musicals like "Magsimula Ka" and "Mga Anghel Sa Lupa."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ALVAREZ (left) and Seña's careers were boosted by Gines Tan's popular musical.

Later, in London, we caught her second-lead performance in "Miss Saigon," and were bowled over, not just by her singing, but also by her dancing, which was made even more difficult by the hit production's raked stage floor.

Now that she's gone back to her intimate musical-theater roots by performing in "Himala" in the very same "postage-stamp" theater where "Magsimula Ka" began years ago, Isay says that she's rediscovered herself, and her true essence as a stage performer. Well, Isay, you can expect to receive the script of another "small" musical from us soonest, for your consideration!

"Himala's" lead player, May Bayot, we remember from another early Gines Tan musical we did at the Met, "Ang Bagong Bituin," where her strong voice sent the old theater's walls a-shivering! More than her distinctive voice, though, we remember May for her sunny disposition, and her genuine goodness.

Dulce, who plays Aling Saling in "Himala," we've worked with in a number of shows, always with great zest and distinction.

Specifically, we recall how we rehearsed her for her first performance with a full symphony orchestra backing her up at the CCP Main Theater, and how nervous she was that she, "just" a club singer, would be found wanting as a "serious" performer in such a posh setting.

We took her through her entire repertoire, concentrating on characterization, motivation and blocking that would add depth, range and meaning to her performance. It was a very fast rehearsal just before the concert itself, but we were impressed with the way Dulce retained all of our instructions and motivations, and made them her own. She certainly wasn't "just" a club singer in our book!

True enough, Dulce's first symphonic concert was a triumph for her, and she was cited in reviews for her "world-class" performance.

("Himala" has more performances this weekend at the CCP's Tanghalang Batute. Its script is by Ricky Lee, music by Vincent de Jesus, and direction by Soxie Topacio.)

DULCE. Great zest and distinction.

MUNJI-LAUREL. Directs and acts in inspirational concert.

'Victim'

Channel 2 is airing the new "practical jokes" show, "Victim," at 9 p.m., every Saturday, starting tonight. Carlos Agassi and the program's staffers play pranks on unsuspecting celebrities, like Angelika dela Cruz.

'Portraits'

The San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts is presenting "Portraits," a concert of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra with Russia-based conductor Baatarjau Enkhbaatar and principal cellist Francisco Llorin Jr. at 8 p.m. today at Meralco Theater.

"Portraits" is the culmination of two weeks of workshops and master classes with Mr. Enkhbaatar. Repertoire: Redentor Romero's "Philippine Portraits," Antonin Dvorak's cello concerto, and Giya Kancheli's fifth symphony, "In Remembrance of My Parents." Call 632-3698.

WILLIAMS (left) and Wilson star in NYC's award-winning comedy, "Stones in His Pockets."

Campus tour

Jag Jeans presents punk-pop band Kamikazee's performances at Jose Rizal University today, Arellano University on Nov. 28, AMA Computer School in Quezon City on Dec. 11, and Philippine Christian University on Dec. 12.

'One'

In need of musical inspiration? Catch "One," ML Entertainment's heartfelt concert for the soul, tonight at the Folk Arts Theater.

"One" tells a beautiful story that unfolds through carefully chosen songs that are interpreted by the stellar likes of Verni Varga, Anna Fegi, Franco Laurel, Luke Mejares, Paolo Santos and Ayen Munji-Laurel, who also directs the inspirational concert. Musical direction is by Danny Tan. Call 638-7776.

'The Fighting Temptations'

After Whitney Houston in "The Bodyguard," Destiny's Child's Beyonce Knowles is the next big singer coming to the movie screen in a lead role. She shares the stellar spotlight with Cuba Gooding Jr. in a movie about the importance of going back to your roots and expressing yourself in musical performance.

Gooding plays a jaded man who has to put up a gospel choir to get his inheritance from his grandmother, and Beyonce is cast as a single mother whose brilliant voice gives the choir's singing the passion and conviction it sorely needs to make everyone listen to its message of faith and hope.

KNOWLES. From singing to acting.

Movies on TV

On HBO: Nov. 22 at 9 p.m., "I Am Sam." 11:40 p.m., "The Tailor of Panama." Nov. 23 at 9:30 a.m., "The Majestic." 6:30 p.m., "Cats & Dogs." Nov. 24 at 12:45 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." Nov. 25 at 9:30 a.m., "The Browning Version." 11:15 a.m., "Glory." Nov. 26 at 11:10 p.m., "Devil in a Blue Dress." Nov. 27 at 2:30 p.m., "The Masque of the Red Death." Nov. 28 at 12:30 p.m., "Save the Last Dance."

On Cinemax: Nov. 22 at 6 a.m., "Do the Right Thing." Nov. 23 at 10:45 p.m., "Silent Cry." Nov. 24 at 3:15 p.m., "Vertigo." 9 p.m., "Muriel's Wedding." Nov. 25 at 7 :30 a.m., "The Eiger Sanction." Nov. 26 at 1:30 p.m., "Boys on the Side." Nov. 27 at 8 a.m., "Superman 2."

Backstage at EWTN

(When we came out with the news some weeks back that Jeanne Young had become a contract artist of Heart Beat Records, the top Catholic recording company in the United States, many of Jeanne's friends and fans wanted to get more details about her record, TV and other activities in the US. Here's that more detailed account, written exclusively for PDI by Jeanne herself. —Ed.)

By Jeanne Young

JEANNE (right) with Heart Beat CEO Susan Stein.

WONDERFUL news since migrating to the United States last May!

The Philippines has been my home since age 9, apart from my 10 eventful years in Australia. You know how difficult it has been for me to leave again. But all indicators said it was time to join the younger half of my family who reside in northern California, and mom, Ms Mila del Sol, who turned 80 last May 12.

Full of joy

On Sept. 6, with a heart full of joy and anticipation, they sent me off to Irondale, Alabama, to EWTN, the Eternal Word Television Network. For four days, I experienced some of the happiest moments in my life doing what i loved best.

Thank you, Jesus!

I was guest singer on their popular 30-minute weekly mini-concert program, "Backstage." It's a forum for Catholic artists who preach the Word of God through music, and they feature one guest, or one act per show. Artists from all over America were invited, I assure you I was behaving —no prancing around as I often did when I was very excited on "Spin-A-Win" or "Wake-Up Call" in Manila.

Posing quite still before the microphone stand, preferring not to use a hand-held mike, I didn't recognize myself. Early on, the director, Joe Copeland (Jody), who had a delightful sense of humor, communicated through the floor director that it was okay to move around the set a bit more. He was being very polite.

Green hair

Truth be told, I was so nervous. I spent so much energy keeping my focus that I thought my now legally blonde hair had turned green! The crew laughed, insisting that my green hair had nothing to do with me but a faulty monitor. Whew! Thank God for tender mercies.

And so, what was it like, and what were they like?

Firstly, let me say that, after 25 years of trying to serve our Lord through the darkest dungeons and incredible highs, to be at the best Catholic television network was a "gift" for my birthday last Sept. 11, nothing that I thought I deserved, because I often deserve a kick in the pants.

Taping schedule

I flew to Alabama from mom's place in San Jose late Sunday afternoon for an extended stay until the 10th.

EWTN was kind enough to fetch guests at the airport in Birmingham, that's 20 minutes away from Irondale. They deposited me at the guesthouse named Madonna, a nice touch, considering how my taping schedule fell during the week of our Blessed Mother's birth anniversary on the eighth!

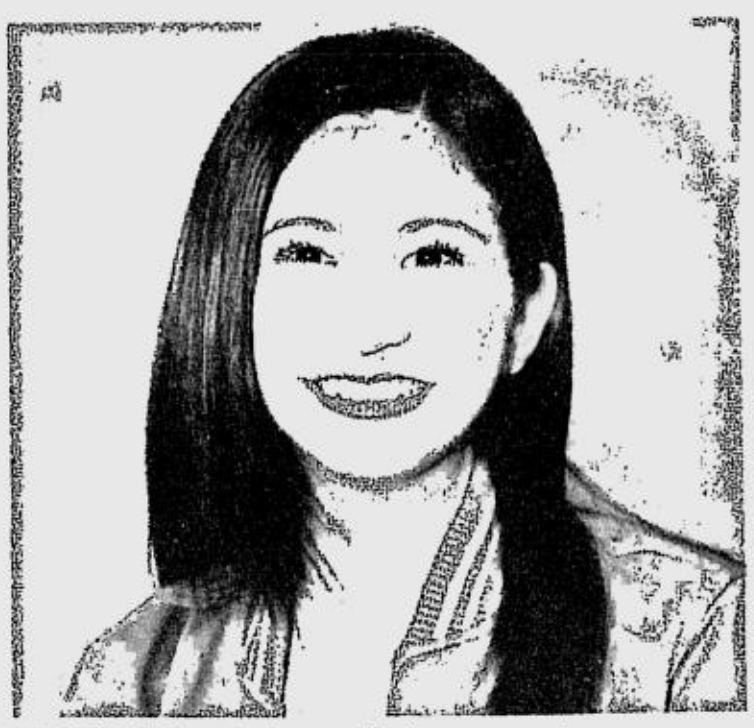
In "my" room there were signs that I wasn't going to embarrass anybody too badly, and that it was God's will for me to be there. They usually have beautiful religious images and portraits everywhere, but the only two photos hanging on the walls in "my" room were those of my favorite devotions, Our Lady of Guadalupe (I was baptized on the Feast of Guadalupe) and Jesus, the Divine Mercy, a confirmation that took my breath away.

Dashed off to the EWTN chapel to catch up with evening prayers, I was thrilled to squeeze in among a pilgrim group. What you see on TV is pretty much what it looks like in person—a cocoon of warmth and genuine worship. Your soul instantly quiets down. In a collective hush, you bow with the angels to the God who loves you.

Strict hours

Next stop, dinner. On weekdays, they adhere to strict hours for breakfast, lunch and dinner. But this was a Sunday, "Kitchen Closed," and I was quite ready to fast away my sins. Again, they put a plate of cold cuts and cheese in the fridge, lots of nice cold drinks and yummy yogurt. I tried to leave some for the other guests.

Speaking of which, the CEO of the top Catholic label in the United States, Susan Stein, was due at 9 p.m. "Backstage" is an EWTN program done in association with Susan's company, Heart Beat Records. I hoped to stay up to welcome her and introduce myself, but the journey from the West Coast to the South that began at 5 a.m., took its toll, and my fake eyebrows were fading! Not a very good impression first off, and so I went to bed. *(To be concluded)*



PERALEJO. Believes in ghosts and in the paranormal.

Rica shifts to suspense in her new starrer

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S been a year since her last movie, "Hibla," was shown, but Rica Peralejo is not about to give the current batch of sweet-turned-sexy stars stiff competition.

Bored

"I'm bored doing sexy movies. I've done them for three years already! *'Di bale na wala akong kikitain, 'wag lang akong ma*-bore. I want to be surprised. There should be an element of mystery in the projects I do," she exclaims.

In her new starrer, the horror-suspense movie, "Malikmata," Rica plays Sarah, a clairvoyant who helps solve a crime she's "witnessed" in her mind. "It's very interesting because I'm nothing like Sara," says Rica.

"But I believe in ghosts and in the paranormal. *May nagpaparamdam din.* But I haven't seen or talked to a spirit."

Rica hopes that clairvoyants won't be treated like freaks. "They are normal people, except that they have a different gift," she elucidates. "It's good, because they can sometimes prevent danger."

Dream come true

Working with director Joey Reyes is a dream come true for Rica. "I've always wanted to work with him," she smiles. Their movie will be shown in December, as an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

But, are her fans ready to see her in a non-sexy movie? "I think so," replies Rica. "They've seen that I can do drama (in the recently concluded *teleserye* 'Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay') and comedy (in 'OK, Fine, Whatever,' with Aga Muhlach)."

There are a lot of special effects in "Malikmata," but Direk Joey points out that the story is still the heart of the movie. "It's loosely based on a true story," he shares.

'Mr. Suave' introduces new comedians

By Jocelyn Valle

EUSEBIO. It took him nine years to get a follow-up project.

WHILE "Mr. Suave" is Vhong Navarro's first solo movie, Star Cinema's latest offering is also the film debut of newbies Ketchup Eusebio, Juddha Paolo and Empoy Marquez. The three guys play the best buddies of Vhong (as Rico Suave) from the bayside market, where he's known as the charismatic *swahe* (shrimp) vendor.

Vocalist

Ketchup had his first big-screen appearance at age 10 as one of Vilma Santos' children in "Dolzura Cortez." It may have taken him nine years to have a follow-up project, but the theater actor, TV ad talent and vocalist of the Schizofly band doesn't mind. The role of toy-robot vendor Mr. Roboto is worth the long wait, he grins.

He is a mainstay of the teen program, "Berks," the sitcom "Tanging Ina" (as the gay son of Ai-Ai delas Alas), and pretty soon, in a news-gag show (*a la* "Sic O'clock News") on Studio 23.

Juddha is the bare-chested guy who blows the flames out after gulping a bottle of ice-cold soda in Coke's "Hotta-Hotta" advertising campaign.

Issues

Playing Mr. Clean may be a long stretch from his first TV job as one of the guys dealing with issues concerning young adults in the recently concluded drama series, "Tabing Ilog," but the 22-year-old aspiring actor had a great time tackling his latest acting assignment.

Empoy Marquez is the winner of the "Mr. Suave" singing and look-alike contest on "Masayang Tanghali, Bayan." The role of cigarette vendor Mr. Takatak is his first acting gig, and Vhong shares that Empoy passed the baptism of fire with flying colors. "*Nakikita ko ang sarili ko sa kanya noong nagsisimula akong umarte*," says the Streetboys dancer-turned-actor.

Together, Misters Roboto, Clean, Takatak and Tea (the *goto* vendor played by Brod Pete) are called the F-Poor, who envy Mr. Suave's magnetic appeal to women. They bug him for tips to make them attractive to the opposite sex. Their own takes on the subject:

Romantic gesture

Ketchup finds being a gentleman effective. "*Totoo din 'yung sinasabi niya na maging* sensitive *sa* needs *ng babae*," he nods, adding that his most romantic gesture was his surprise visit last month to his Subic-based girlfriend.

According to Mr. Suave, says Empoy, men should be giving, respectful and helpful to women. Is he like that in real life? Flashing a sheepish grin, he replies, "*Magalang naman po*."

Juddha, just like Mr. Suave, treats women in a special and unique way. His style, however, is unusual: "I bring my dates to cemeteries," he smiles. "*Tahimik doon, 'di ba?*"

MICKEY and Minnie Mouse celebrate the 75th anniversary of his screen debut. AP

Mickey Mouse . . . From page E1

1928, as the 26-year-old Walt Disney and his wife, Lillian, traveled from New York to Los Angeles after the animator lost a drawing of his original cartoon character, a rabbit.

Sympathetic character

"I had this mouse at the back of my head . . . because a mouse is kind of a sympathetic character in spite of the fact that everybody's frightened of a mouse, . . . including myself," Disney recalled later.

The animator wanted to christen the mouse clad in red velvet shorts "Mortimer," but Lillian told him the name was too pompous. By the time the train arrived in Los Angeles, a new star was born.

Disney lent the future figurehead of his global empire his own voice in his movies, creating one of the 20th century's most enduring stars, who would outlive famous contemporaries, from Charlie Chaplin to Bette Davis.

Throughout his long career, the peppy star has had only three voices: that of Disney—who won an Oscar in 1932 for creating Mickey—Jim MacDonald and his current incarnation, Wayne Allwine.

As the world's most popular rodent marks three-quarters of a century in the spotlight, the Walt Disney Co. is organizing a rash of events to celebrate the ever-youthful Mickey's past, as well as his future.

Over the years, Mickey's emblematic visage has appeared in more than 140 movies, in comic books and on a staggering range of merchandise, from watches and toys to pajamas, which first began appearing in 1929.

And now Disney is adapting Mickey to 21st-century digital technology, with the release next year of "Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas," which for the first time features him in three-dimensional computer-generated images.

The secret to his longevity, according to Smith, is his sunny disposition. But while Mickey may be at the top of his game, he has also been through tough times over the years.

During the 1930s, he was forced to fend off a pesky plumed protege who tried to muscle in on the mouse's stardom.

"He had to compete with (Disney's) Donald Duck, but by the '50s he was back up at the top again," explained Smith.

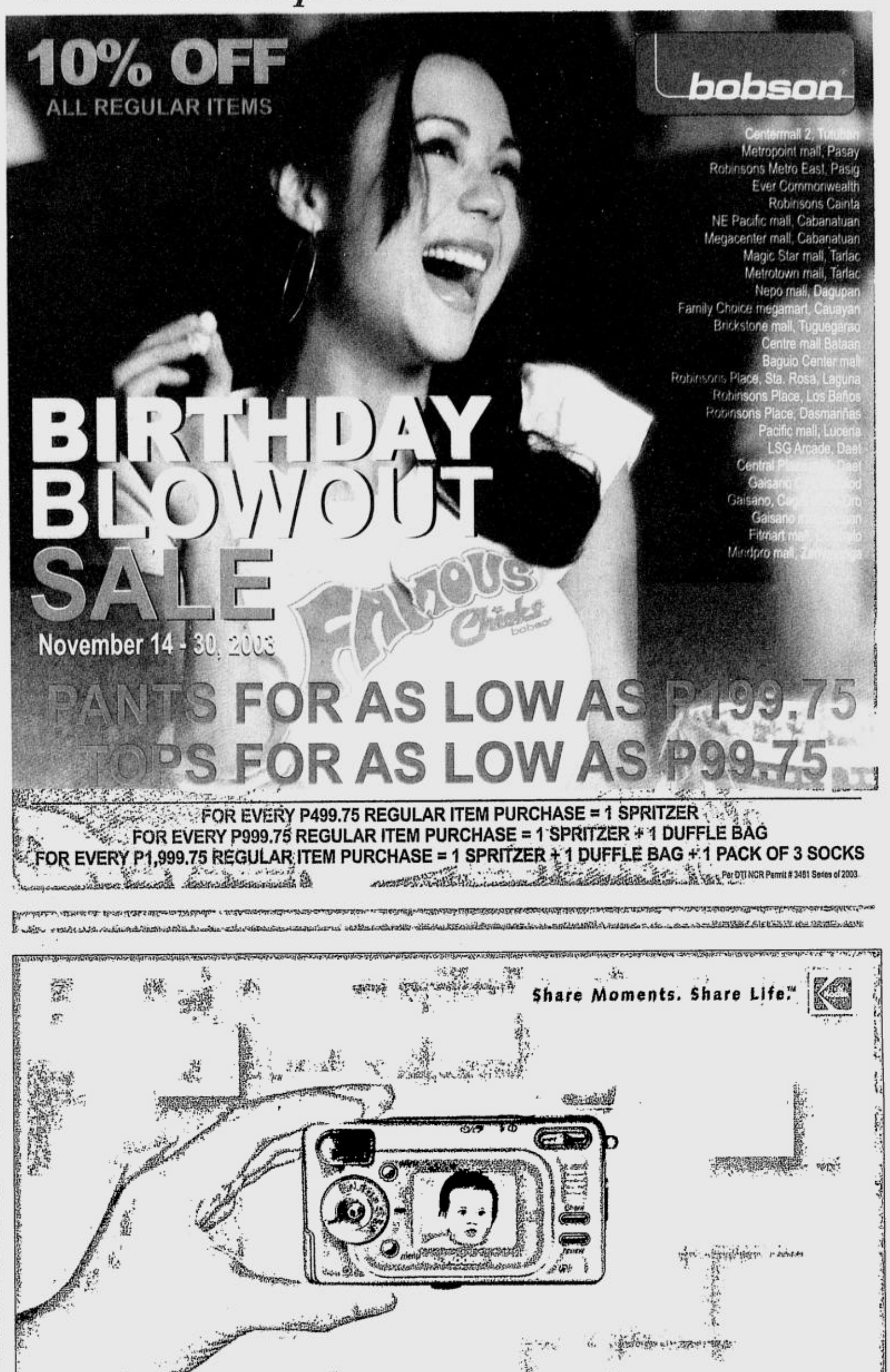
Flagging career

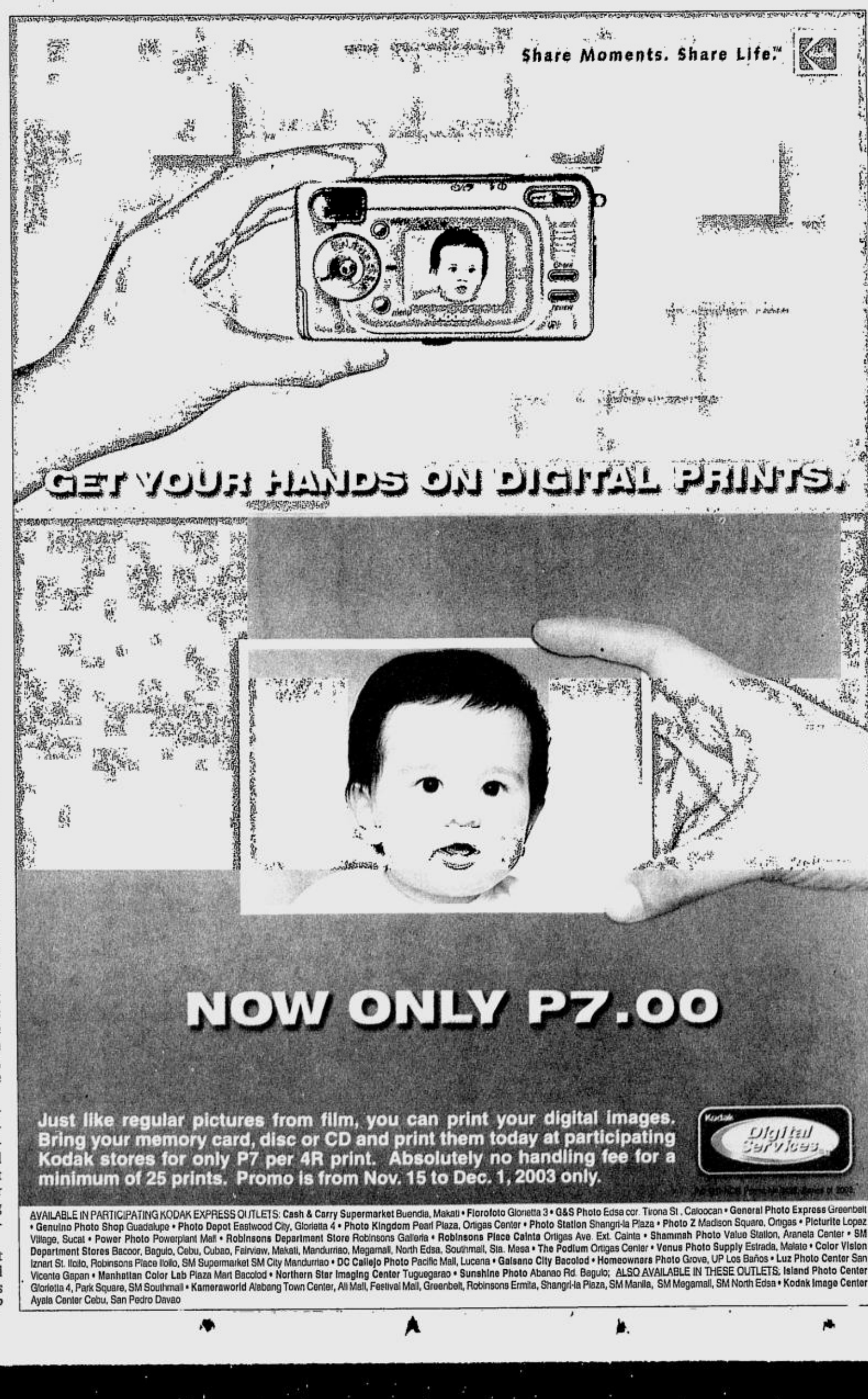
In a bid to gain the upper paw against Donald, Mickey starred in the 1940 musical classic, "Fantasia." While the film flopped when it was released, the famous "Sorcerer's Apprentice" sequence helped relaunch Mickey's flagging career.

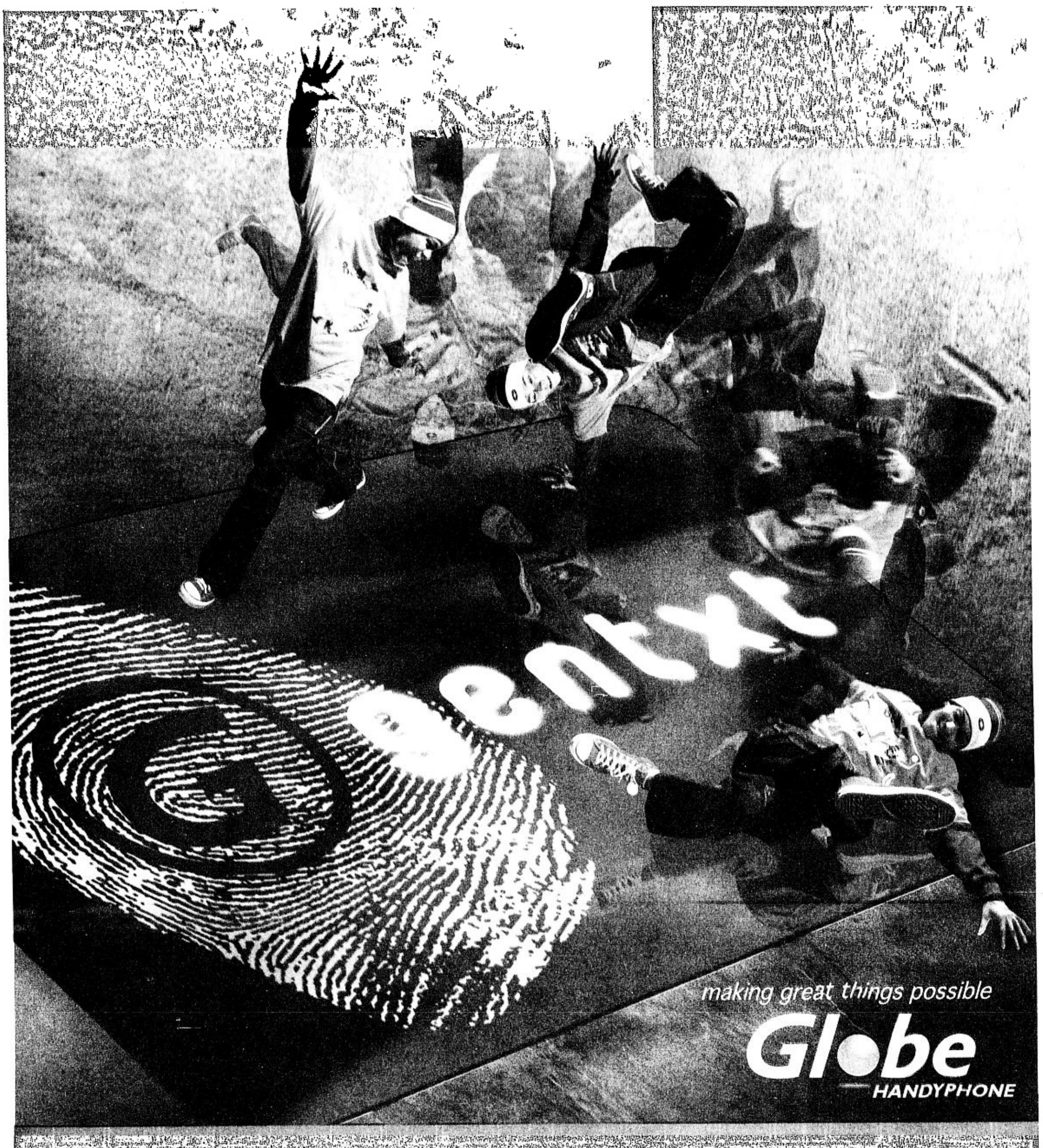
Mickey's family life has long been a mystery to fans, as he has never married girlfriend Minnie Mouse, who first appeared with him in "Steamboat Willie"—and, while he has young nephews, he has no known siblings.

For former US president Jimmy Carter, Mickey is "an ambassador of goodwill and a peacemaker who speaks the universal language of friendship." Walt Disney, who died in 1966, never forgot the role his furry young character played in the phenomenal success of his business.

"I hope that we never lose sight of one thing: that it was all started by a mouse," he once said of his entertainment behemoth. *AFP*







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Nov 22 Sat 9pm New Episode Bar Anniversary Party @ Nakpil St., Malate
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*Gentxters get a free standard drink for every P200 food purchase.

Nov 24 Mon 7pm Looney Tunes: Back In Action @ Onstage Greenbelt 1
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SATURDAY Special

'Commander' Crowe looks forward to fatherhood

CROWE portrays Capt. Jack Aubrey, who commands a British navy fighting ship in "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World." REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—It was his 63rd day of being sober, and Russell Crowe seemed to like it.

But before anyone thinks the Aussie Oscar winner has gone stone cold sober, his was "not an AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) announcement." As he explained to a group of reporters, not drinking was all part of his training for the boxing film, "Cinderella Man," that again teams Crowe with director Ron Howard, director of "A Beautiful Mind," the film for which he was nominated for a best actor Oscar.

Reputation

Crowe, 39, has the reputation of being a Hollywood bad boy and barroom brawler, but marriage and impending fatherhood may be calming the star of the seafaring tale, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," which opened in the United States last week with sails set for the Oscars in February.

Dressed in a crisp blue suit, Crowe joked through much of the news conference. His good humor was a far cry from two years ago when, in a similar setting for "A Beautiful Mind," Crowe's rumpled shirt hung over his jeans, and he scowled and grumbled through his 30-minute session.

He and his wife of seven months, Danielle Spencer, are expecting a baby boy in January and Crowe told reporters that fatherhood won't change him.

"It might change what is written about me, which has always been quite separate from who I am," he said.

Baby's personality

Crowe said he is looking forward to gazing into his baby's eyes and shaping the boy's personality. "I'm looking forward to diapers. I'm looking forward to all of it," he said.

About Danielle, he added, "I'm really enjoying watching my wife flower at the thought of being a mother." It's hard to think Crowe hasn't gone a little soft.

Yet, when questions stray too far into fatherhood, the star of "Master and Commander" steers reporters back to the movie.

"Master and Commander" is based on Patrick O'Brian's 20 books about the 19th century adventures of swaggering seafarer Jack Aubrey, captain of the British Navy's HMS Surprise, and Aubrey's best friend, ship doctor Stephen Maturin.

Crowe is Aubrey and Paul Bettany plays Maturin. "Lucky" Jack Aubrey is a hard-drinking man of the sea whose orders are to hunt down the French battleship Acheron off Brazil and sink her or capture her for England.

Show business paper Daily Variety called the movie "thoroughly satisfying as an atypical adventure tale studded with unusual detailing and diverting sidelights." *Reuters*

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Good foreign films patronized by more viewers

By Rito P. Asilo

AFTER viewing Mira Nair's delightful "Monsoon Wedding," we've noticed that more world cinema features and contemporary pop movies from around Asia are scheduled to be screened here in the next few weeks. This is certainly a most welcome change in the cinematic tastes of local movie buffs toward alternative cinema and "subtitled films."

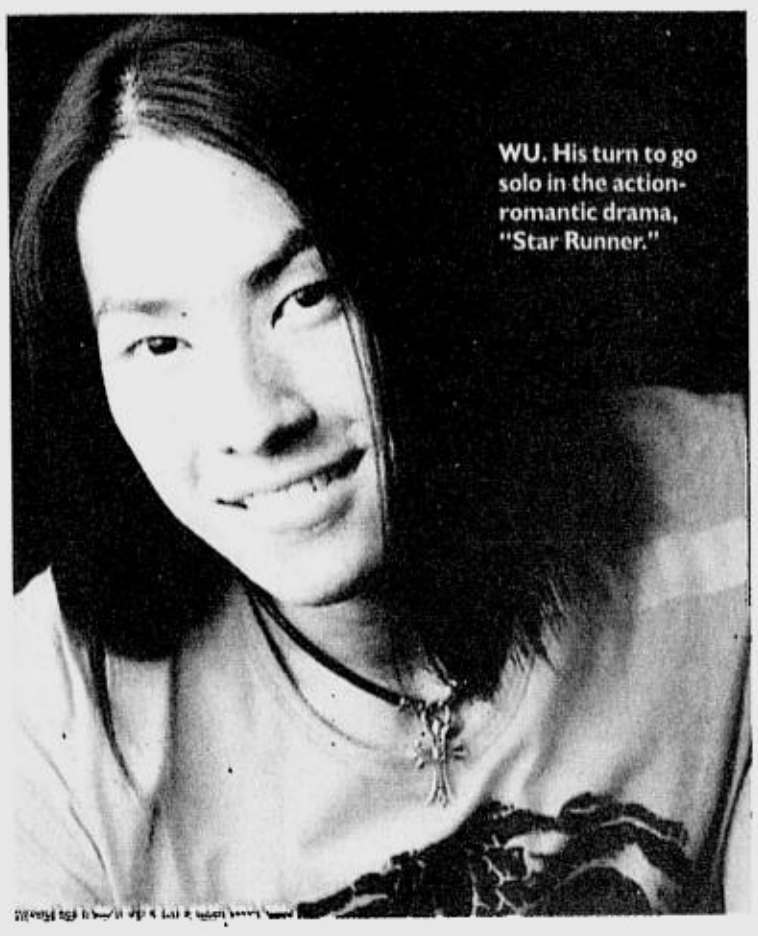
Cross-section

The ongoing Italian Film Festival at the CCP's Dream Theater features six well-chosen entries that showcase a good cross-section of the Italian lifestyle captured on celluloid. The list of features ranges from Federico Fellini's masterpiece, "Amarcord" (1974), to the lush epic on the Bavarian king, "Ludwig II."

If Japan has the comic duo-turned-acclaimed-directors Takeshi Kitano ("Kikujiro," "Hana-bi") and Sabu ("The Blessing Bell"), Italy has the popular comic trio of Aldo, Giovanni and Giacomo.

From being cabaret stand-up comics, they have branched out into writing, producing and performing their own scripts. Capping the festival is the showing of their 1998 opus, "Such Is Life."

The film is a metaphorical tale of unlikely friendship and circumstance that starts when a convicted felon escapes, taking with him his guard and an innocent civilian. They go on a journey to the countryside, from Milan through Tuscany.



WU. His turn to go solo in the action-romantic drama, "Star Runner."

"Such Is Life" will be screened at the CCP Dream Theater on Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Financial reversals

Daniel Lee's action-romantic drama, "Star Runner," stars Vanness Wu of the popular Taiwanese group, F4. Initially affected by the SARS scare that hit Hong Kong, the production initially suffered financial reversals due to delays.

The ambitious project involved shooting scenes in Chan Chun, with several hundred extras, and a '40s steam train engine, for which they had to build railroad tracks.

Vanness will be paired with Korean actress Kim Hyun-joo. He plays Bond, a young university student who dabbles in Thai kickboxing. One summer, he meets May (Kim), a Korean girl who's nursing a broken heart. She works as a language professor at the university where Bond takes classes.

Stunts

This film features a buff Vanness, his hair much shorter than what his Pinoy fans have seen him in. Though the film is still scheduled for release in Hong Kong, its Philippine distributor has secured an earlier screening here (Nov. 29).

Shimizu Takashi's "The Grudge: Ju-on" can be placed alongside great Japanese horror flicks, like Hideo Nakata's "Ring" and "Dark Water," Kurosawa Kiyoshi's "Cure" and Ukrainian director Higuchinsky's "Uzumaki (Vortex)."

Japan is fast becoming the spawning ground of great, bone-chilling scream flicks that are rich in rancid atmosphere. The *Ju-on* is a curse borne out of a grudge held by someone who dies in an unresolved violent crime. This curse is then passed on to the first person who is zapped with it.

A Hollywood outfit is already planning a US version of "The Grudge," inspired by the success of the American version of "The Ring."

Adolfo Aristarain's "A Place in the World" almost received a Best Foreign Language Film nomination at the Oscars in 1993. However, it got disqualified, and its nomination was withdrawn due to its multiple countries of origin (Argentina, Uruguay and Spain).

Verbose and philosophical

Like the recently shown "Martin Hache," this film is a bit verbose and philosophical, arguing about everything from religion to political ideologies.

After almost a decade in exile, a couple returns to Argentina, settling in a backward community west of Buenos Aires. Their 12-year-old son is teaching an illiterate girl to read, against the wishes of the girl's father. In the boy's path to manhood are characters and situations that will complete this coming-of-age tale.

Along with Fellini's "Nights of Cabiria" (1957) and Juzo Itami's "Tampopo" (1985), "A Place in the World" will be screened for free at the Titus Brandsma Center in Quezon City on Dec. 13. Call 726-7763.

Rock compilation not all that fresh

By Noelani Torre

DON'T be misled by the title of Warner Music's rock compilation, "Super Fresh," and its sub-title, "The Juiciest Modern Rock Hits Today!"

19 tracks

Of the 19 tracks in this CD, none can quite qualify as being "super" fresh, the most recently released being Evanescence's "Bring Me To Life," Staind's "Price to Play," Third Eye Blind's "Blinded (When I See You)," and Linkin Park's "Somewhere I Belong."

The aforementioned cuts are fresh enough, but "super fresh" they are not, which will give you an idea of how old the other tracks are—like The Calling's "Wherever You Will Go," taken from their 2000-released album, "Camino Palmero."

Neither is it, as its blurb says, "the year's biggest and most hard-hitting rock smashes." The songs are all hits, no question about that, but they aren't all, strictly speaking, rock, and some of them are last year's and even older hits (e.g. John Mayer's "No Such Thing").

"Super Fresh" is, in truth, a collection of the last three years' biggest hits, rock and otherwise.

Is it definitive? Not quite, but that doesn't mean that you won't enjoy this mixed but essentially listener-friendly bunch.

More experimental

Unfortunately, this leaves no room for more experimental and rawer elements like Metallica's "St. Anger," a truly hard-hitting rock hit (and this year's, too). This is not to say that the songs in this compilation are mild pap, but neither are they all qualifiedly rock.

We have nothing against "No Such Thing," we like it even though it has been dreadfully overplayed, but it's more pop than rock, as is Duncan Sheik's "On a High," which is definitely pop.

CD-opener is Linkin Park's "Somewhere I Belong," the hit from their second album "Meteora," a definitive example of their distinct rap-metal sound. It is regrettably followed by Evanescence's "Bring Me To Life." We say regrettably because the arrangement underscores the latter's similarity to the former.

It has often been said that Evanescence is a mere copy of Linkin Park, but with a female vocalist. We don't want to get into that debate here, but there is certainly some truth to it, if we listen to these two tracks.

Label

The cuts that are more or less rock would include the Red Hot Chili Peppers' "By The Way," "Hero" by Chad Kroeger (featuring Josey Scott), The Calling's "Wherever You Will Go," and "My Sacrifice" by Creed—if only for the fact that the artists are generally classified under that label.

LINKIN PARK. Their song, "Somewhere I Belong," is a definitive example of the group's rap-metal sound.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers are rock legends, after all, and Kroeger is the lead singer of Nickelback, an unabashedly rock, rock band. The Calling and Creed have likewise been traditionally recognized as rock, and we have no quarrel with that—though, like most of the other songs here, theirs suffer from overplaying. Perhaps a better choice would have been P.O.D., who seem to have more recent but not quite as *gasgas* hits. *(To be concluded)*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV. 22 - NOV. 28

CH	7	4	5	7	9	11	23	25	29
	6:00 Star in A Million 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:00 Victim 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	7:00 Kitsenera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 BYK 101 10:00 Travel 10:30 Global Family Series 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 New Yankee Workshop 7:00 Car Guys 7:30 Screen Savers 8:30 Home Grown 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup alpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 Kl 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Batas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 A Second Look	9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yas Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	6:00 Captured 6:30 Home Grown 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Fresh Gear 8:00 Tomorrow Today 8:30 Arts Unlimited 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Bida Si Misis, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Lapot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Convergence 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Daling Daan
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 Pipol	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 All Together Now 11:00 Saksi 11:30 The Probe Team	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 Single Girls 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sports in Focus 11:00 RTV, Our Rhythm, Our Reality	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 US Tennis Open 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Screen Savers Edit A 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Daling Daan
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Whattamen 10:00 Klasmeyts 11:00 Insider 11:30 Special Assignment	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Nuts Entertainment 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Malcolm In the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly 11:00 Cerge for Truth	10:00 Breaking Barriers 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 CSI 9:00 Alias 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Fresh Gear 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Daling Daan 10:30 Q Showcase
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Mealaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Insider 11:30 Dong Puno Live	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Magpakailanman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Debate	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills 11:00 Police Hour	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Phil. Pro Boxing League 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 CelebrityDotCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Screen Savers Edit B 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Daling Daan 10:30 Q Showcase
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Insider 11:30 Private I	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 10:00 The Working President! 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Fancy Lala 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Bubble Gang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Emergency	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 Just for Laffs 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 Dead Zone 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	10:00 Entrepinoy 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 GMA The Working President	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 X-Men 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Thieves 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Auto Motor and Sports 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Daling Daan

Britney Spears says she's still a role model

SPEARS. Criticized for drinking and smoking in public.

LONDON—Britney Spears insists she still is a role model for young girls, despite recent revealing magazine covers and her new album with sexually explicit lyrics, the British Broadcasting Corp. said recently.

Radio interview

In a radio interview, the 21-year-old pop star said parents should not be worried if their children want to copy her, the BBC said.

"I probably have more older fans than younger ones, but I think the reason why everyone talks about the younger fans so much is because parents are concerned. And in the end, they shouldn't be concerned because they should trust and believe in their kids," Spears was quoted as saying.

The BBC said she defended recent magazine photos of her, saying, "I've just recently done covers that are a little bit explicit and sexy. A lot of people think they were very explicit, but that's their opinion."

Spears, who kissed Madonna at the MTV Video Music Awards, also talked about her relationship with the singer, saying there was a special connection between them.

Rebellious nature

"She's like my godmother, in a way. I don't listen to that many people, I'm very stubborn. When someone tells me not to do something, I do it—that's just my rebellious nature," Spears said.

The star, criticized for drinking and smoking in public, urged people to be realistic.

"If you go out and have red wine with your dinner, it's like, 'Oh my gosh, she's drinking!' You know, people have to realize you're human just like anyone else and people have to give you a break," she exclaimed. *AP*

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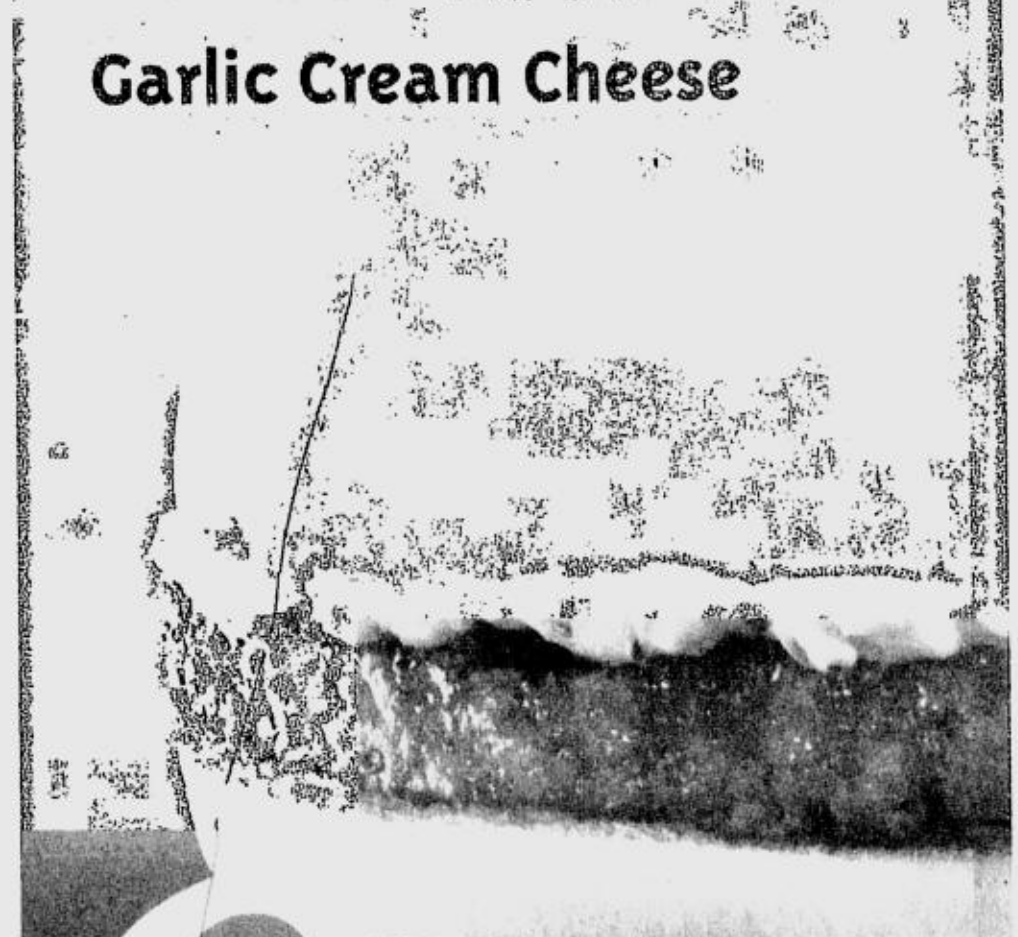

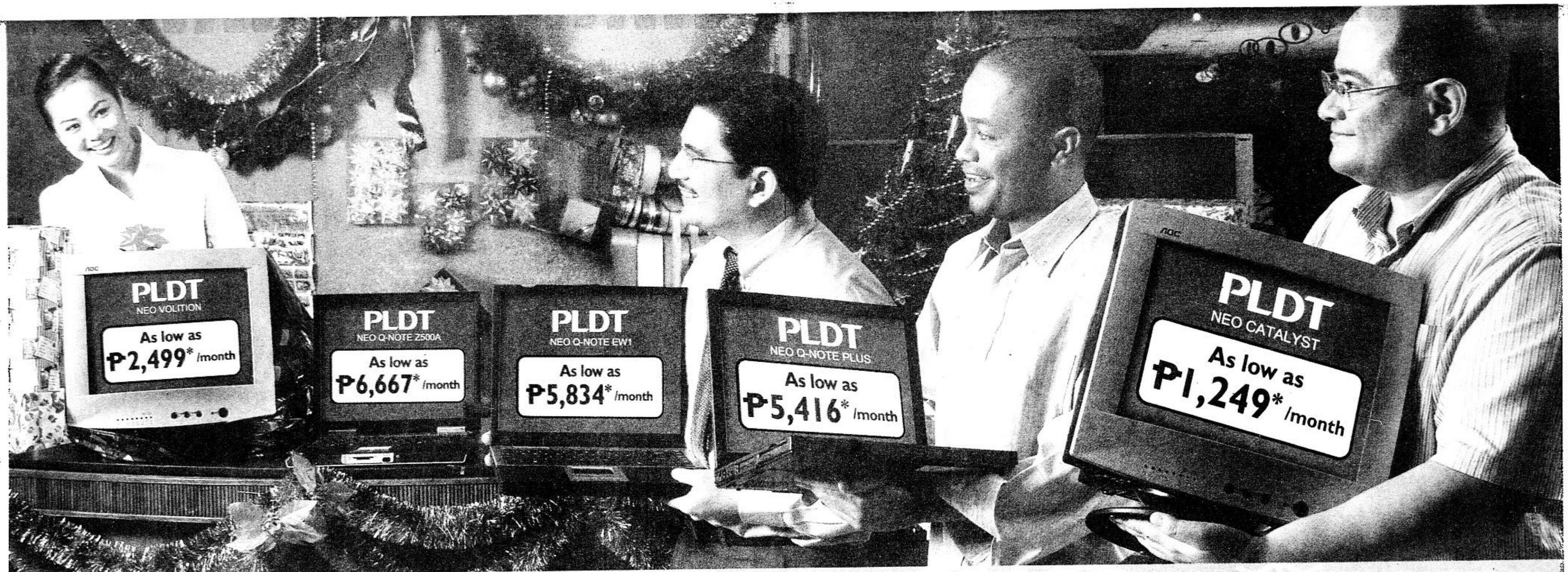

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SATURDAY Special

LEDGER (left) and Damon play brothers in the film adaptation of the children's classic. REUTERS

Matt Damon and Heath Ledger laugh through Terry Gilliam's Grimm tale

PRAGUE—Standing in front of a monitor watching their latest take during the filming of "The Brothers Grimm," Matt Damon and Heath Ledger burst out laughing.

Not exactly the reaction one would expect from a fairy tale, but precisely one director Terry Gilliam was aiming at.

"This film certainly is like nothing I have ever done before," Damon told Reuters.

Disastrous end

Gilliam, looking to move on from the disastrous end to his film about Don Quixote when financing was abruptly pulled, has chosen to guide the stories of the Brothers Grimm in a not-so-fairytale way for co-producers MGM and Dimension Films.

As with previous films "Brazil" and "Twelve Monkeys," Gilliam, once part of the British comedy team Monty Python, has brought his exaggerated sense of space and shapes to the stages of Prague's Barrandov Studios.

His take on Jake and Wilhelm Grimm is that they were 19th Century conmen who duped people into paying them to drive out "evil creatures" that are actually fictitious beings created by the brothers themselves.

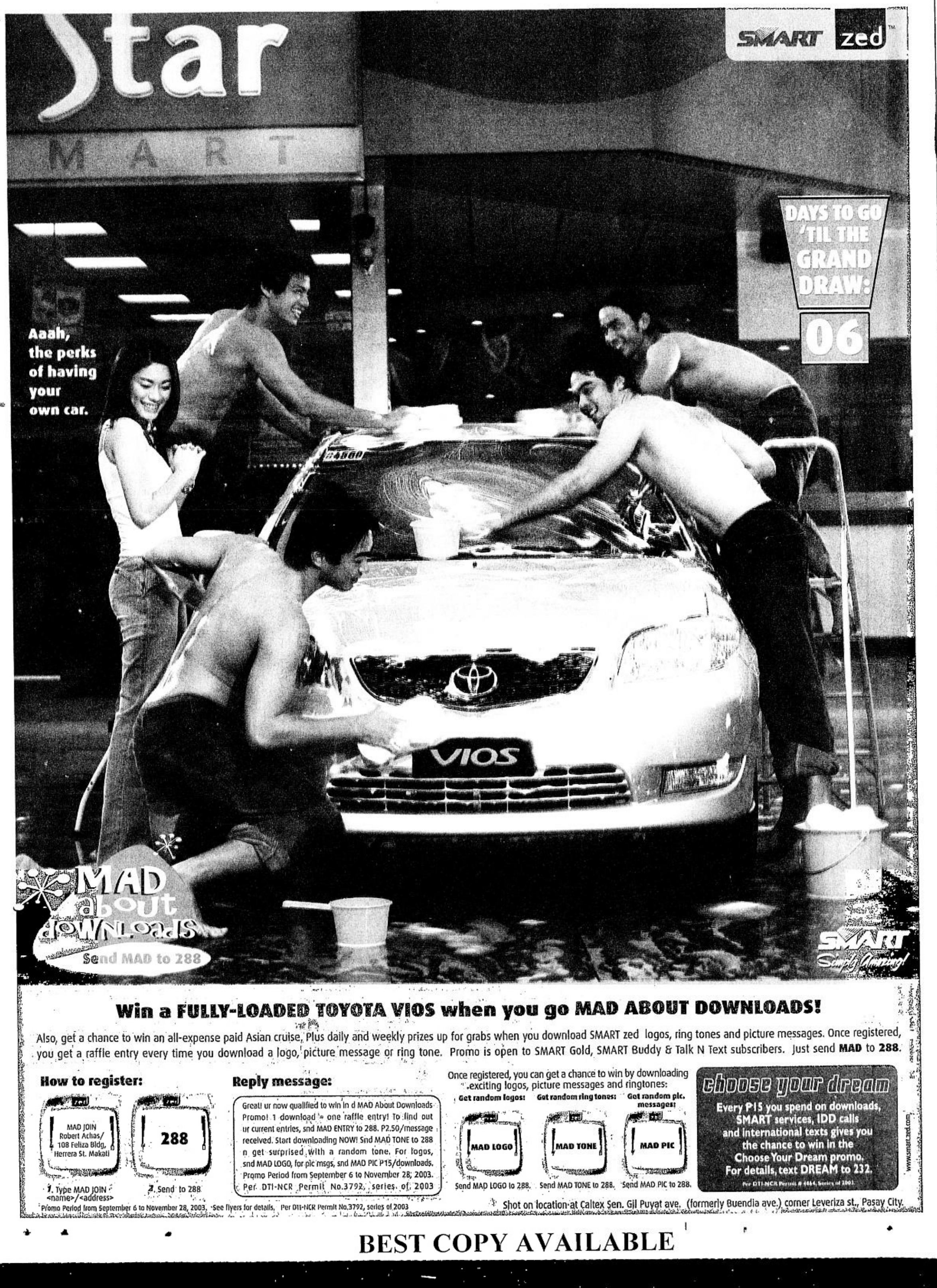
Wild adventure

Eventually the two are asked by the French government to deal with an actual evil creature—played by Monica Bellucci—that sends them on a wild adventure.

Damon and Ledger, heartthrobs to millions, are barely recognizable in their Bavarian costumes.

For Damon, the role was one he couldn't turn down, even if shooting delays have eaten up any chance for a holiday before filming a sequel to his hit, "The Bourne Identity."

Reuters



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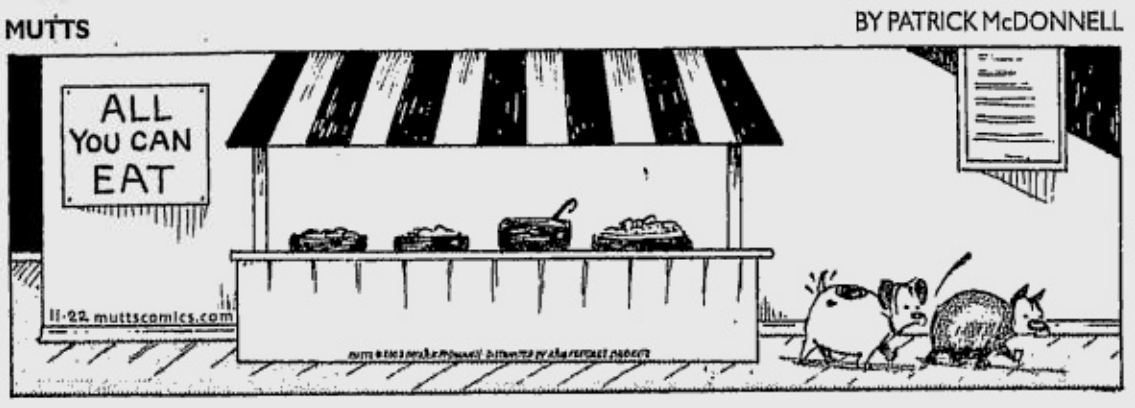


ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bold and independent. You need freedom of action and the stimulation of excitement. You are tireless in your pursuit of your goals. You are unconcerned about what others think because you put your own integrity first. You are interested in the welfare of children. In the year ahead, you must make an important choice.
Birthdate of: George Eliot, writer; Tom Conti, actor; Jamie Lee Curtis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't be surprised if you feel an increasing need to express your own independence. You want more freedom in your life! (This means you have to take it.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the next few weeks, try to get better organized in insurance matters and everything having to do with debts, wills and estates. Clear up as much red tape as you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might need more rest than you usually get in the next few weeks. The Sun is now as far away from your sign as it gets all year—and the Sun gives us energy.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's fortunate that you have an increasing desire to get organized in your life. I say "fortunate" because most Cancers own a lot of "stuff."

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus turns to love affairs, romance, pleasure and fun social activities in the month ahead. Sports, the arts and playful activities with children are highlighted as well. Enjoy!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's time now to turn your attention to matters connected with home, family and real estate. Tackle home repairs. Do something to make where you live look more attractive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The tempo of your daily routine will accelerate now. Increased reading, writing and studying, plus conversations with others, put more demands on your time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Four planets now urge you to redefine your sense of values. What really matters to you? You want to spend your money and use your possessions in a wise way.

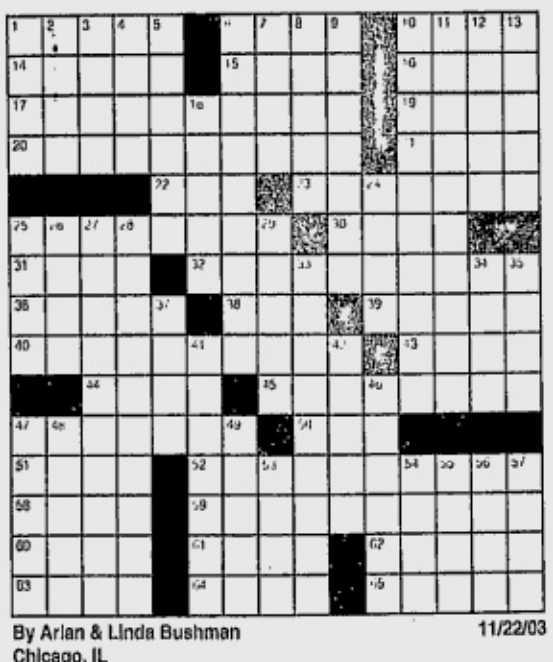
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Four planets in your sign certainly boost your energy now and for the next four weeks. This is your time to replenish, restore and refresh yourself!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): As your personal year comes to a close, look back and give yourself the proverbial report card. What do you want to be different in your new year ahead?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Increased socializing with friends is on the horizon. Accept all invitations. Extend a few to others yourself. Enjoy schmoozing with your pals!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are definitely in the limelight more than usual in the month ahead. Expect to be singled out for some particular activity that calls attention to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

11/22/03

ACROSS
1 Type of lily
6 Ranch worker
10 Greek letters
14 Exotic
15 Great Plains tribe
16 Egg part
17 Executive skill
19 Russian-born Art Deco designer
20 Druthers
21 Ship's personnel
22 Bandleader Brown
23 Repeaters
25 Takes away (from)
30 Ala. neighbor
31 Henri's girlfriend
32 Print composer
36 Ineffectual persons
38 Lenient
39 Seven times a week
40 Elite soldier
43 Racer Yarborough
44 Turn sharply
45 Sends to the bottom
47 Combination
50 Verse starter?
51 Humorist Barry
52 Letterman bit
58 Julia's Oscar-winning role
59 Flights
60 Ale order
61 Emcee Griffin
62 Violet starter?
63 Duds
64 So what __ is new?
65 Knotty problem

DOWN
1 Bivouac
2 Winglike
3 Phone connection
4 Table extender
5 Bassett or Lansbury
6 Prepared like mom's?
7 Ancient sun god
8 Time being
9 Sniffs out
10 Flirtatious signal
11 Coming down in buckets
12 Refashion
13 Distorts
18 Upright
24 Take note
25 Cartoon deputy
26 Middle Eastern leader
27 Expeditious
28 Fabric treatments
29 Trains for a bout
33 Part of CEO
34 Fashion magazine
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Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	C	E	■	A	E	S	O	P	■	P	S	S	T
I	M	A	X	■	T	R	O	V	E	■	E	T	N	A
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11/22/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

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Is London's West End losing its way?

LONDON—The West End is again a focus of woe, with many wondering why its shows aren't more sparkling and whether Britain's commercial theater has lost its touch.

Rare repertory season

Last year at this time, the historic West End had Judi Dench and Maggie Smith in "The Breath of Life," a sellout play by David Hare. There also was a rare repertory season of Elizabethan and Jacobean classics. And Elaine Stritch had an acclaimed London run for her Tony-winning solo show.

This year, by contrast, London's 40-odd commercial playhouses seem largely to be hosting shows that have been around nearly forever (among them, "The Mousetrap," now a half-century old), or theaters are dark.

Some have productions that are so bad that they barely deserve comment. Those include not one but two separate stage treatments of the Rat Pack—Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin and crew—as well as various attempts to rip-off the long-running musical, "Stomp."

A new musical, "Money to Burn," closed Oct. 11 within 36 hours of opening at The Venue to excoriating reviews and a nearly $600,000 loss.

Theatrical misfires

Shortly before that closing, popular British comedian Michael Barrymore canceled his own stand-up show mere days into his engagement at Wyndham's Theater, after deciding he was in no shape to continue a run that had received decidedly mixed reviews.

This sequence of theatrical misfires is making itself felt: "Bright lights, big rip-off," read a recent headline in The Guardian. "The West End is full of dud shows."

It doesn't help that the infrastructure around the theaters seems to be crumbling, with erratic public transport and anti-social behavior on the streets making some theatergoers wonder whether a night out is even worth it.

There are those within the industry itself who agree with the critics.

"I have to say I think he's quite right," says veteran producer Peter Wilson ("The Woman In Black"), referring to remarks from The Daily Telegraph's Charles Spencer, who dismissed London's theatrical hub as "a stagnant artistic wasteland."

One could argue, of course, that New York's commercial theater isn't that much better. For much of the summer, Broadway hosted only one new play, Richard Greenberg's Tony-winning "Take Me Out," although things have improved with the fall season.

Cachet

Where the West End loses out with cachet is in competition from such powerful state-funded institutions as the National Theatre, which regularly gets the high-profile premieres that end up transferring to the West End and Broadway.

Chief among those is "Jerry Springer—The Opera." The acclaimed British musical about American tabloid TV reopened Nov. 10 at the West End's Cambridge Theater, some seven months after it first stormed the National.

The National "has raised the bar for us all," says Sonia Friedman, the producer behind Madonna's West End debut last year in "Up for Grabs."

In any case, commercial playhouses, theater owners argue, can only take what they are given, which can be tough in a town where the National and smaller, not-for-profit venues like the 251-seat Donmar Warehouse tend to reign.

Return

Next year already promises the return of Dench to the West End in February in Shakespeare's rarely seen "All's Well That Ends Well," while Jake Gyllenhaal ("Moonlight Mile") will make his second West End appearance next summer in "Romeo and Juliet."

Calista Flockhart, too, has been rumored to lead a starry revival of the Eugene O'Neill play, "Anna Christie," for which Mark Ruffalo ("In the Cut") also has been mentioned.

Such star power at least gives the West End a chance to restore some of its lost sheen. And there's the promise in 2004 of several major new musicals: "The Woman in White," composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest, as well as stage versions of the films "Mary Poppins" and "Billy Elliot."

AP

"MONEY TO BURN." New London musical's stars (from left) Gabrielle Noble, Peter Blake and Rachel Lynes, performed for only two days before their show figuratively went up in smoke, and had to abruptly end its run.

Wish shows on TV favor 'search' mode

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, the two "wish" shows on local TV (Channel 2's "Simpleng Hiling" and Channel 7's "Wish Ko Lang") were both in "search" mode, for maximum emotional impact on viewers.

Convict

"Simpleng Hiling" featured the story of an old and very ill convict who wanted to be reunited with his estranged siblings before he passed away. Adding to the pain and irony of his predicament was the fact that he had been put behind bars because he had killed his brother's wife!

As Karen Davila and her team looked for the convict's family, viewers naturally wondered if the brother would be able to forgive his sibling for his crime. It turned out that the brother *was* prepared to forgive and forget, but his two sons weren't.

Still, the long-awaited reunion did take place, and it was as emotional as expected. The convict broke down, overcome by both happiness and guilt—and, after his brother had forgiven him, he looked like a heavy load had been lifted from his heart.

The memorable feature was marred only by its occasionally excessive emotional blackmail, evident in the leading questions that were asked to sustain the constant flow of tears.

Focus on forgiveness

Still. the story's "search" format did make it more affecting and involving than usual, and its focus on forgiveness was laudable.

For its part, "Wish Ko Lang" had an even more melodramatic "search" story to tell: A daughter separated for years from her mom suddenly got a telegram that informed her that her mother was in a mental asylum.

Bernadette Sembrano and the program's staffers took the "searcher" to where her mother was—no longer at the asylum, but in a private facility where she was being cared for by loving volunteers.

The problem was, she didn't recognize her daughter. Naturally, this drove the already tearful woman to even bigger and louder outbursts and paroxysms of extreme emotion.

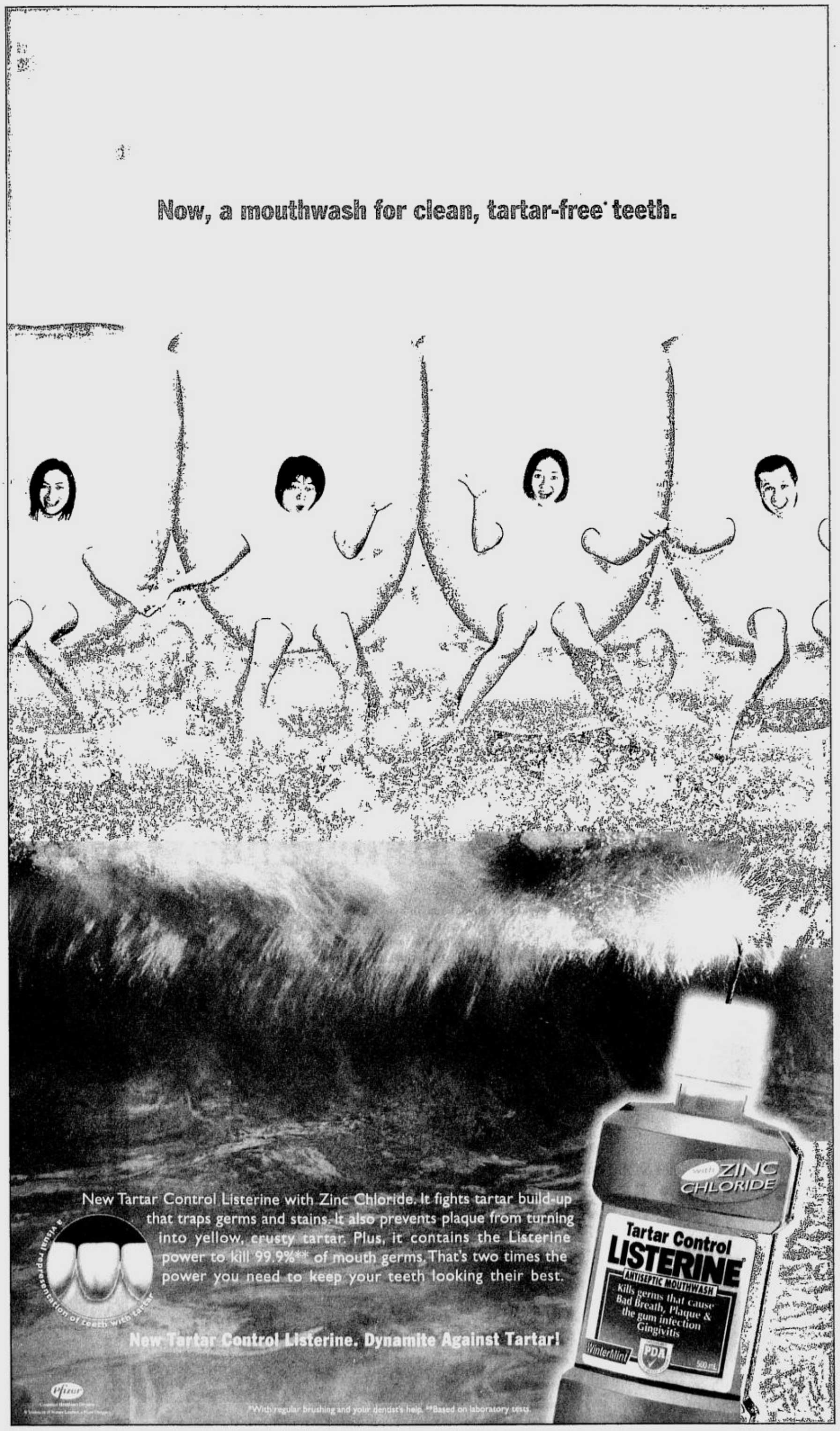
Long-lost daughter

It was only when the mother finally understood that it was her long-lost daughter who was embracing her that the search ended happily for all the parties involved in the high-strung real-life drama.

Here, again, the remarkable feature was occasionally made too soggy by excessive emotionalizing on the daughter's part. She also talked a blue streak, which added to the feature's eventually enervating effect.

In both shows' instances, the lachrymal and emotional excess could have been easily trimmed with some deft editing here and there. But the shows may not want to do that, because the people involved in them obviously believe that viewers here like emotions to be presented to them in big, wet and voluble doses.

We hope, though, that other viewers express their preference for affecting stories that *aren't* emotionally over-the-top. If enough people make this preference known, TV shows would more readily know when enough is good enough— and more is definitely too much!



Jazz revival show staged at UP Theater

SHERMAN. Will perform in "Jazz N' Time."

By Behn Cervantes

THE UPSILON Sigma Phi Fraternity introduced jazz to the UP campus 50 years ago, when the premiere fraternity of the university staged "Jazz One" in 1953. The music, a symbol of freedom from racial oppression and discrimination, was met with great enthusiasm.

In fact, jazz historian Richie Quirino notes, "From the Roaring '20s up to the mid-'50s, jazz reigned supreme in many Filipino households and was considered the pop music of the day."

Accolades

The initial show reaped press accolades that encouraged the fraternity to stage more jazz concerts at the cavernous UP Theater. In 1978, Upsilon staged "Jazz Concert Eleven" at Abelardo Hall. By then, Presley, the Beatles and electronic music had taken hold of the audience.

Angel Peña, Lito Molina, Narding Aristorenas, Tony Velarde, Vestre Roxas, Fred Robles, Piding Alava, Roger Herrera and Boy Flores became known as the Upsilon Men of Jazz.

They had become the *suki* of the sponsoring organization, while singers Priscilla Aristorenas, Diana Cruz, Nelda Navarro and Celina Sanz interpreted jazz standards for the appreciative audience. Even Sen. Raul Manglapus and his ensemble joined an Upsilon concert to play their own brand of Dixie music.

The Upsilon Sigma Phi jazz concerts became an annual "must-see" event on campus. Lovers of the musical genre trekked all the way to the State University from as far away as Sangley Point and Clark Field Airbase. They included radio announcer and jazz enthusiast Bill Blackburn, who annotated the 1958 concert, "Ensemble !4," where Filipino musicians played along with a jazz band from Clark Air Base brought over by Blackburn.

First attempt

Prof. Ramon Tapales, then head of the UP Conservatory of Music, was very impressed by Angel Peña's jazz composition, "Bagbatulambing," the first attempt to fuse jazz with Filipino musical idiom. Peña had given a symphonic treatment to the composition, thus resulting in "classical" jazz. Tapales was so taken by the innovative treatment that he asked Peña to introduce the genre to the curriculum of the UP Conservatory of Music.

However, Tapales met unexpected opposition from fellow professor and composer Dr. Eliseo Pajaro, who felt that jazz was merely a "vocational" course, so it had no place at the UP Conservatory. Tapales, on the other hand, pointed out that US counterparts of the conservatory already offered jazz as an area of serious musical study.

To resuscitate interest in jazz and bring back the glory days of this progressive musical genre, the Upsilon Sigma Phi stages "Jazz 'N Time" on Friday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. at the UP Theater. The performers in this Golden Anniversary celebration will be led by Romy Posadas and his friends, Affinity, Johnny Alegre, Tots Tolentino and jazz stand-outs Richard Merk, Jacqui Magno, Mon David, Lynn Sherman, South American music interpreter Eileen Sison and the incomparable Verni Varga.

Tickets are available at the UP Theater and from any member of Upsilon Sigma Phi.

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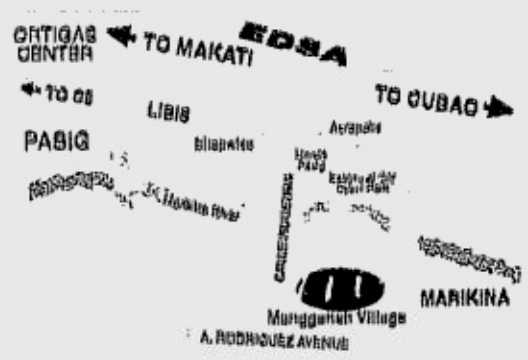

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TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Longest speech, first kiss and other fun facts

By Rito P. Asilo

GARSON. Hour-long victory speech!

"WHO gave the longest Oscar acceptance speech?"

Answer: Greer Garson, who won Best Actress for 1924's "Mrs. Miniver," made the longest acceptance speech. It took her an hour to thank everyone!

To cut a long story short

"What is the original title of the Anthony Minghella film, 'The Talented Mr. Ripley,'?"

A: "The Mysterious Yearning Secretive Sad Lonely Troubled Confused Loving Musical Gifted Intelligent Beautiful Tender Sensitive Haunted Passionate Talented Mr. Ripley"!

Girl in the band

"What musical instrument does Julia Roberts play?"

A: She used to play the clarinet when she was in her high school band at Griffin Middle School.

Popular figures

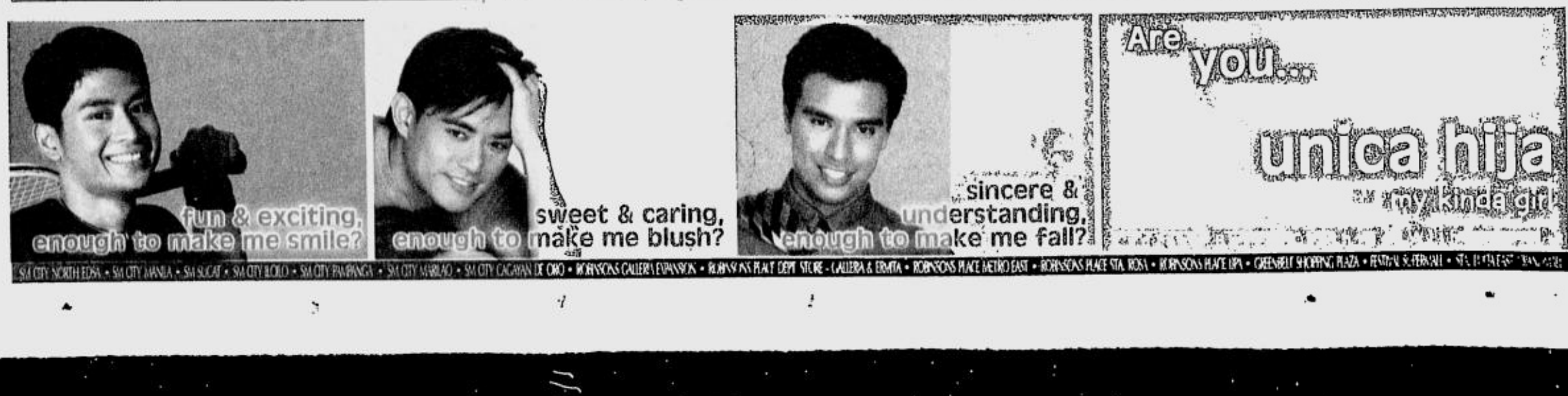
"Which historical figure is most often portrayed in the movies? And which movie character is most often depicted?"

A: Napoleon Bonaparte has been featured in 194 movies. Jesus in 152, and Abraham Lincoln in 137. Baker Street's sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, a fictional character created by Sir Arthur Conan Dole, has been portrayed by about 75 actors in more than 211 films since 1900!

First screen kiss

"Which actors shared the first kiss in a movie?"

A: The first screen kiss was between May Irwin and John Rice in the 1896 short film, "The Widow Jones" (a.k.a. "The Kiss"). The one-minute feature contains a 15-second kiss between Irwin and Rice, which resulted in the first demand for film censorship that time.



Countdown 33 days 'til Christmas

SATURDAY Star

Wine Women & Sushi

Produced by
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Photo by
XANDER ANGELES
Makeup by
XENG ZULUETA
of Shu Uemura

The Sweetest Tabú page J4

Paris page J3 is porn again

Rockin' the terno page J3

sniff, swirl swish page K1

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NOKIA 6220 FREE @PLAN2665

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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1934, Series of 2001

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Mirror, mirror

MANY light years before the era of Botox injections and silicone breast implants, an extremely vain Evil Queen asked her magic mirror that winner-take-all question: "Who is the fairest of them all?" Getting a not very favorable response from the blasé, absinthe-colored ghostly image in the looking glass, the Evil Queen was infuriated, and proceeded to draw up extreme measures to slay the little bitch who snatched the beauty title from under her perfect, aquiline nose.

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

You know the rest—some undercover work, a poisoned apple, seven helpful but vertically-challenged fellas named after the effects of illegal drugs, a near-perfect murder, a handsome prince to the rescue, a kiss, and a Lazarus-like resurrection.

Kudos to Snow White on scoring her little victory, but I have a confession to make: I did not care too much for that syrupy-sweet and air-headed maiden. Truth to tell, I took a strong liking to the villainous queen instead, and for a good number of reasons—definitely not her excessive vanity, homicidal behavior and lack of anger management skills, but some of her, shall I say, finer points.

Unlike Snow White, who sported frou frou ribbons and dressed up like an impulsive and color-blind shopper, the majestic monarch had exquisite fashion sense, embodying über-chill velvet chic way before it hit the catwalks in 1995 Fall/Winter collections. I also liked the fact that the queen kept such wickedly cool company such as a precocious magic mirror.

But what attracted me most to the sinister queen was the fact that she was not only a raving beauty, she was also a *thinking* beauty with a fierce determination and a mind of her own. Aggravated by bungling assassins who failed to accomplish her dirty designs, she cunningly strategized schemes a la "Mission Impossible"—concocting lethal potions to soak harmless-looking fruits into, donning an ingenious disguise and exhibiting superb acting skills amongst her enemies to accomplish her nefarious goal. In short, she was brilliant. I like to imagine that if these nightly interrogations between the Queen and her beloved mirror had delved beyond the concerns of physical beauty, she would have still reigned supreme. She would have offered smart, original answers when posited with substantial inquiry. Snow White would simply answer every question with "World Peace."

Title holders

Outside the realm of fantasy, the modern world has kept with the tradition of answering that age-old question of who is the fairest in the land via glitzy, yearly events called beauty pageants. The chosen queen is bestowed a coveted title, plus sovereignty over some physical or metaphysical expanse, be it a little town in Surigao or the Asia-Pacific region; extending across the World, the planet Earth or the Universe itself. These pageants celebrate the diversity of beauty from every corner of a world populated by judges adept at surveying perfect, beautiful women (making the magic mirror obsolete and prompting it to accept a TV offer alongside Boy Abunda).

SAY my name, witch!

Questions, answers

I take guilty pleasure in watching two particular portions of international beauty pageants. The first is the commencing parade of nations, showcasing resplendent, exotic costumes from all over the world. This portion has likewise improved my knowledge of Geography—how else would I have known there was such a country as the Republic of Tonga?

I skip the whole middle part consisting of the swimsuit and evening gown competitions, admittedly because watching the bevy of women spawned from the gene pool of perfect chromosomes never fails to make me feel like the "Before" photos in magazine makeover features. Then I switch back to my absolute favorite part of the show, the Q&A segment. On a shallow level, I like this part because of that mean little streak in me awaiting inane replies that beauty contestants are notorious for. In a very recent one I caught on TV, Miss Asia-Pacific 2003—which was held right here—I cringed at some of the replies of the semi-finalists (who shall remain anonymous, for kindness' sake—see, I'm not all that wicked!)

Host: What can you say about the phrase, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend?"

Semi-finalist A: I love jewelries (sic)! When I was a little girl, my mother gave me many jewelries (sic again), like bracelets and necklaces. But necklaces are more important because it is closer to the face. Thank you!

Host: What do you think about women making the first move?

Semi-finalist B: I think movement is very important. The way a girl moves is important in communicating with others.

Not all the answers are bad, of course. Which brings me to the deeper reason I like the Q&A. The idealistic specter in me relishes beautiful answers beyond the beautiful faces of these women hoping to rule the universe. I am in awe by those with conviction, those who have a firm grasp of the role of women in modern society that goes beyond being mere eye candy.

Asked what women most wanted in the world, a ravishing Miss India gave a very Moulin Rouge answer: "Love—to give love and to be loved in return." Yet the one I actually cheered for was Miss Costa Rica, who said it was independence that women wanted most. The freedom to make her own choices, to do what she wants to do, and take charge of her own life. She garnered the loudest applause.

Mirror image

If I could play Magic Mirror and reflect on the concept of true beauty today, I'd start by casting the image of Vida Samadzai, a.k.a. Miss Afghanistan, who competed in the recently concluded Miss Earth tilt, also held here in Manila. Fluent in five languages, she is an active volunteer and fundraiser in women's rights issues, with a particular fervor for her countrywomen once grossly mistreated by the fallen Taliban regime. In 30 years, she is only the second Afghan woman who has joined a beauty pageant. Though she did not make it to the semis, she was awarded the title "Beauty with a Cause." Our local judges lauded her for "symbolizing the newfound confidence, courage and spirit of today's women" and "representing the victory of women's rights and various social, personal and religious struggles."

In an interview, Vida said: "I want to be able to implement the things I learned from my visit here in my country, which is heavily damaged by war. I would like to make people aware that, as Afghan women, we are talented, intelligent and beautiful. Now Afghan women can go to school, go to work, they're free." She was consequently condemned by her own countrymen for tarnishing the traditional image of the burqa-covered Afghan woman for parading down the catwalk in a red bikini, touted as "lascivious behavior."

I don't think it's a coincidence that Miss Afghanistan's first name, "Vida" means "life." Now there's a clue as to understanding real beauty, at least for me. It goes beyond the vision of flawless skin and legs that reach the moon; it is the enchantment of living out a beautiful life. It is having true courage and conviction, and realizing that beautiful actions are the fairest of all.

E-mail the author at inca_orange@yahoo.com

Whine and cheese

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Talk about overkill. John Walker Lindh probably became an American Taliban dude to protest yet another season of 'Survivor.' And let's not get started on the Gap

AS A university student, I had to impose frequent, unannounced money diets on my hedonistic urges. Whenever this happened, I would sidestep the Jil Sander racks at Holt Renfrew and roll instead into the friendlier pastures of Club Monaco, where there was always a selection of cool mid-budget gear. On days when I was living off A&W discount coupons, I windowshopped at the Gap. Though I hate to admit it, I was charmed by the vegetable-dyed zip-up hoodies they sold for $19, a horribly economical alternative to John Varvatos. With its armada of cheap and cheerful basics, I saw firsthand how college kids subsisted on Gap clothing. At any given moment, I would spot at least 15 people sporting variations of the logo sweater on campus, or notice the same two-tone baseball tee on half my International Marketing class. Thus, despite my balls-to-the-wall money situation, I couldn't force myself to actually buy anything there. I had bandwagon issues.

Considering the many triumphs we've had in pushing civilization stylishly forward, there are a few things that may have pressed our efforts back by a few steps. Foremost among these is our ability to instantly turn offbeat ideas into hackneyed concepts by overkill. Do you remember henna tattoos, waistband-less jeans, and newsboy caps before everyone got a piece of the action? These all started out as original, counterculture philosophies but fell off the face of the earth because they became too pedestrian too soon. In my opinion, that's the point when something inherently charming turns irreversibly cheesy. Here are other current examples of curdled charisma:

Acoustic nightmare

The stripped-down performance style that's transforming everyone into easy listening zombies is merely living off the past glories of MTV Unplugged. A little bit of then looking very now, this acoustic mini-revival stirred up interest in vaguely with-it artists, who strummed our pain with their fingers and bored us to death with countless remakes of songs that sucked in the first place.

A capella, a wimpier cousin of this hushed-up nightmare, is another genre poised for tragedy. Dressing up Gregorian chants in low-rise jeans doesn't make it part of the A-list. Don't look now, but there are cringe-inducing multi-vocal interpretations of Third Eye Blind's "Semi-Charmed Life," Green Day's "Basket Case," even the "Eye of the Tiger" theme poisoning a certain radio station. If you happen to chance upon any of these non-masterpieces, I suggest listening with some crackers in hand and a barf bag on standby.

Reality TV bites

The deluge of foreign reality TV shows has produced some glaringly malnourished spin-offs. Wanting to duplicate the success of "Jackass," which wanted to duplicate the success of "The Tom Green Show," MTV's "Whatever Things" is another derivative of a derivative. Don't they know the joke's worn painfully thin? Everyone's moved on to "Punk'd," a hit signature that's being forged by a local channel. Your 15 minutes start now.

HOW about a rousing rendition of "Bawitdaba?"

Inhabited by the sort of people we're lucky to not know in real life, the UK's "Pop Stars," Xeroxed successfully by "American Idol," is now being aped by a couple of networks down to each calculated outburst. Trafficking this new breed of performance hysteria seems to be working, since their not-so-bright target demographic is eating up the spectacle like paparazzi at New York Fashion Week. But for those of us who've seen the prototypes, it's so much easier to vote everyone, and everything, off.

Trashspotting

Braying with heads far up their butts, a lot of magazines impart tangential hipness to their readers through easily digestible lists. There's "50 Most Beautiful" or "People to Watch Out for in 2004," but can high-decibel hearsay take us farther than that? With every two-bit publication issuing trend roll calls with the steely determination of Wile E. Coyote chasing the Road Runner, all I foresee is a lot of crap. How about dishing out something more impressive, like "50 Most Influential in 2015" or "10 Below 10?" Now that would involve some serious peeping into the future.

Déjà vu to death

The downturn in creativity and originality in current pop culture is frustrating, especially for young people like me. Cheesy rip-offs, like those mentioned here before, make up the sort of stuff that forces normal, sunny human beings to take up arms and join terrorist groups. More than a conflict in political or religious beliefs, John Walker Lindh probably became an American Taliban dude to protest yet another season of "Survivor." And with the plagiarism that's plaguing the local entertainment landscape, it's only a matter of time before tasteful thinkers sign up with underground resistance groups as well.

But back to the Gap. I'm enough of a brainiac to know that style, charm, and taste are intensely personal and wholly subjective. I just don't get why some of us prefer to déjà vu ourselves to death despite the opportunities for individuality that wink from every corner. I mean, how can you be an individual when a million-strong band of shoppers looks exactly like you? Even if Gap greeters sugarcoat my experience with their perkiest salutations, I won't allow them to have me at "Hello." When it requires hitching on the copycat bandwagon, all I have to say is "No, thanks." Being grimly broke, I'd rather look in Value Village.

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AFTER HOURS AFTER HOURS AFTER HO

Compiled by Adrian Cuenca

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22:

Philippine Wine Merchants & Ralph's Wines and Spirits at the Peninsula Manila: Grand Wine Experience 2003, 6 p.m.
Nuvo: Electrolounge with Scrambled Edge and Don Renato (Jazz, Brasilia and Broken beat)
Acquario: Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house)
Dreambar: Circo Loco with Benjo Marquez (soulful house)
Temple: Martin Pulgar (house)
Absinth: Pump with Joe Henzon & Carlo Ching (tech-house)
Tiananmen Bar & Resto: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (Chill Out, Balearic)
Wasabi: Saturd80's, New wave and dance music from the era with DJ Luis and DJ Jojo
Olive: The Boiler Room with Nicky Jurado (Hard Dance), Owens Sun (Progressive house) and Myk Tolentino (Progressive, tech-house)
Fidel: Velvet Mafia with Bingo Ang (house)
TBWA Santiago Mangado Puno (for Ad Congress) present Velvet Mafia Cocoy Puyat (funky house, tech house) & Patch (funky house) @
Shadows, Penthouse level, Concorde Hotel, Baguio City

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25:

Temple: Goodlife Tuesdays with Steve Mills & Paolo Cabalfin (r&b)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26:

Absinth: Smooth Wednesdays with Steve Mills (r&b, hip hop)
Flute: Johnny Walker presents: Walk on the House Side with DJ Patch (funky house)
Olive: Syrup with Lester Castillo (r&b) & guest DJs
Bora Bar: Manolet Dario (Progressive house)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27:

Temple: Yin Yang, a sonic fusion of RnB and House music with Kevin Ruiz.
Olive: Freeflow with Myk Tolentino & guest DJs
Azzurro: Plush Thursdays with Steve Mills (r&b)
Bykes Cafe: DJ Luis (retro '70s to '90s)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28:

Restaurant 12: 12 after 12 with Chip de la Calzada (sexy, deep house and lounge)
Dreambar: Decadance with DJ Luis & DJ Eric ('80s and '90s)
Wasabi: Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills (r&b)
Acquario: Erwin Edralin (Deep & funky house).
Tiananmen Bar & Resto: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (Chill Out, Balearic)
Olive: Essential (the anthems 1999-2001) with Anthony Kierulf, Jay Tengco and Jon & Marc Naval.

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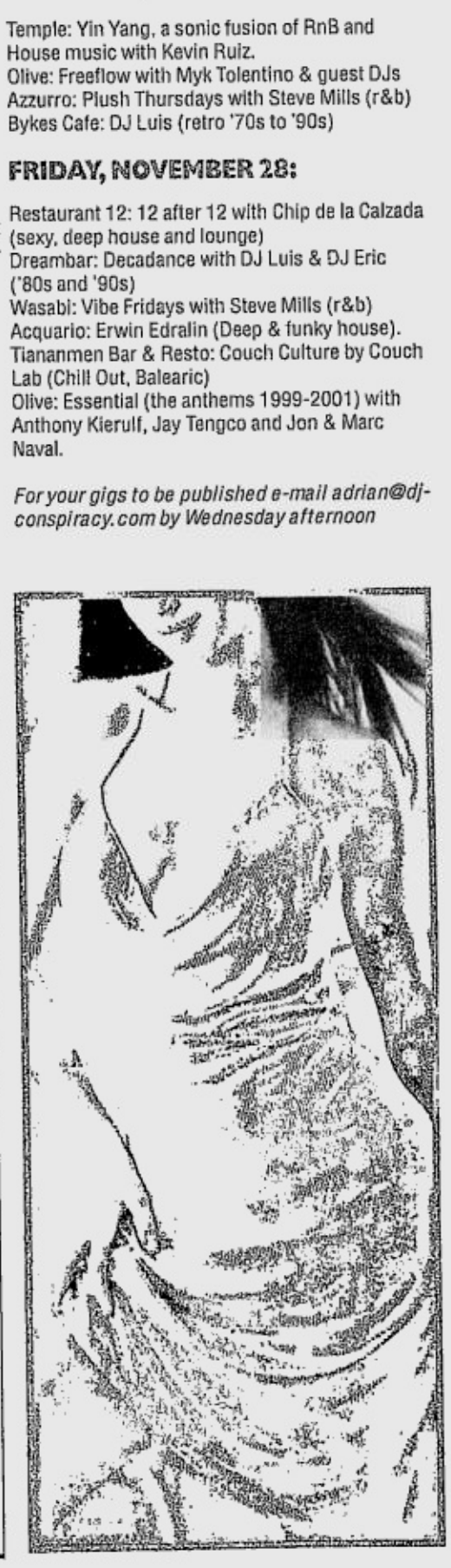

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ARANETA COLISEUM

Top 10 hits for occasionally drunken lives

THERE is a soundtrack for parts of one's life, most people will agree.

To illustrate: everybody must have been inebriated at one time or another. It doesn't matter why or how. Maybe there was unabated drinking at a birthday party, or on New Year's Eve, or maybe an attempt to drown one's sorrows with bottles of San Miguel. I recall a cab ride to London's Chinatown with some girlfriends, one of whom burst into song without prompting by the cabbie. The infamous "chick" song, "I Will Survive" suddenly spewed forth from her lips, with a coordinated kicks that left me in hysterics. She had defined a night for me.

Aimee Marcos

Taking this idea further, there is a prerequisite song list for people who set out for a night on the town. I'm not saying these songs are "cool" or after everyone's heart; there just seems to be a staple Top 10 list for occasions of mirth and merriment, both in Tagalog and English. What follows is an attempt to contain these favorites in two lists. If I fail miserably, please forgive me and, when you see me next, we can sit down for a civilized discussion.

I humbly give you: **The Top 10 Classic Hit Lists for Moments of Inebration**

TAGALOG

1) **"Pare Ko"** by The Eraserheads. Just listen to the lyrics. Why It's on top of the list is pretty self-explanatory. In fact, it sets the tone of this whole menu. It's all about having crashed and being burned for no apparent reason apart from, "Minamahal ko siya".

2) **"Ibigay Mo Na"** by Jessa Zaragoza.

3)**"Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal"** by Lea Salonga.

4) **"Miss na Miss Kita"** by April Boy Regino. These last three songs bring out Filipino sentimentality at its best, that which makes us all fall in love, and sometimes flat on our faces.

5) **"Manila"** by Hotdog. This should be a tribute to Filipino overseas communities that are greatly helping our economy along. I've had my share of singing this, out of nostalgia and loneliness while abroad.

6) **"Awitin Mo, Isasayaw ko"** by VST & Co. This always makes me dance, and of course there's a version about shaving ...

7) **"Bongga Ka 'Day"** by Hotdog For all the gays and fag hags in the world. The world is your catwalk. *Itaas and plinak niyo'ng kilay!*

8) **"Laki Sa Layaw"** by Mike Hanopol. Classic Pinoy rock at its greatest, for a generation grown bald but still rocking.

9) **"Laklak"** by Teeth. Need I explain.

10) **"Buloy"** by Parokya Ni Edgar. Maudlin song about a friend who was self-destructive.

ENGLISH

1) **"I Will Survive"** by Gloria Gaynor, though for rockers of my generation, the version by Cake may be more appealing.

2) **"Dancing Queen"** by Abba. There has to be an Abba song in this list and I want to get it out of the way. This song gets feet a-tapping and hips a-swaying. Get 'em funky Farrah Fawcett hair wings and you're all set.

3) **"Yesterday"** by the Beatles. For a more sentimental mood. It is said to be the most widely remade, requested and played song of all time. As a Beatles fan, all I have to say is duh.

4) **"All By Myself"** by Jaime O'Neal. Or would you rather have the version of Celine Dion? Whatever, this was a stunning opening song for "Bridget Jones' Diary."

5) **"My Way"** by Frank Sinatra. Or Robbie Williams. Whichever generation you belong to, chances are a drunken uncle has sung this at some karaoke party.

6) **"Respect"** by Aretha Franklin. From senti to empowering, this Queen of Soul's classic gets us feminists up and dancing while burning our bras. Kidding.

7 & 8) **"YMCA"** & **"Macho Man"** by Village People. I decided to have these two together because they are by the same group. "YMCA" compels one form the title letters with one's limbs. The second one, well, it does for men what "Respect" does for women.

9) **"Leaving on a Jet Plane"** by John Denver. A little something for the *despedida* party. Perhaps also on the *senti* side of the list, but there are enough remakes out there to validate my choice.

10) **"You've Lost that Loving Feeling"** by The Righteous Brothers. Basically because although Tom Cruise sang it a bit out of tune to get Kelly McGillis, he got the whole bar of drinking Navy men to sing along with him. I suppose we can't blame anyone in a stupor for thinking he is Tom Cruise. I have friends that take the whole "Golden God" speech in "Almost Famous" seriously.

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Rockin' the Terno

Tim Yap

Photos by Xander Angeles
Makeup by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

FROM out of Iola's baul, the terno is reborn tonight at the Terno Ball. **Bea Zobel Jr.**, **Ino Manalo** and **Ben Chan** are behind the renaissance—a fund-raiser for the Metropolitan Museum as well as a tribute to the man who romanticized the Filipina dress, **Joe Salazar**—the Terno has come, gone and now, is back again. Here, **Amanda Griffin** shows us the different ways to wear the sleeves that have come to represent Filipina women all over the world. Funkify it with accessories to suit your style. Wear it with a shirt. Pair it with jeans. Use a different material for the sleeves. Be proud and wear it as a badge of your being Filipino.

Spread your wings and prepare to fly, butterfly.

FAVORITE INTERNATIONAL CITIES: In no particular order: New York, London, Bangkok, Gold Coast, Sydney

ROCK AND ROYALTY. Pink and yellow guitar bags by Ignacio Loyola for Jag paired with Katrina Goulbournn corset and ball gown with Silk Cocoon collar, all found in Silk Cocoon in New World Renaissance Hotel

WORST FEAR: Being alone.

WOMEN YOU WOULD DATE IF YOU WERE A GUY: Alyssa Milano, Natalie Portman, Ashley Judd

SONGS IN THE SOUNDTRACK OF HER LIFE: Crazy In Love (Beyonce Knowles), Always the Last to Know (Del Amitri), You're Body is a Wonderland (John Mayer)

WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT LIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES: The beaches, and the fact that there's always a good party.

VA VA VOOM VALERA. Blue green terno with beaded bodice made of silk organza and beads by Ramon Valera in the early '70s. Owned by Sevrine Miailhe and originally worn by her mother in law, Mrs. Brigget Miailhe

JUS... Whit... with... gree... Uyti... Bacc... Mass...

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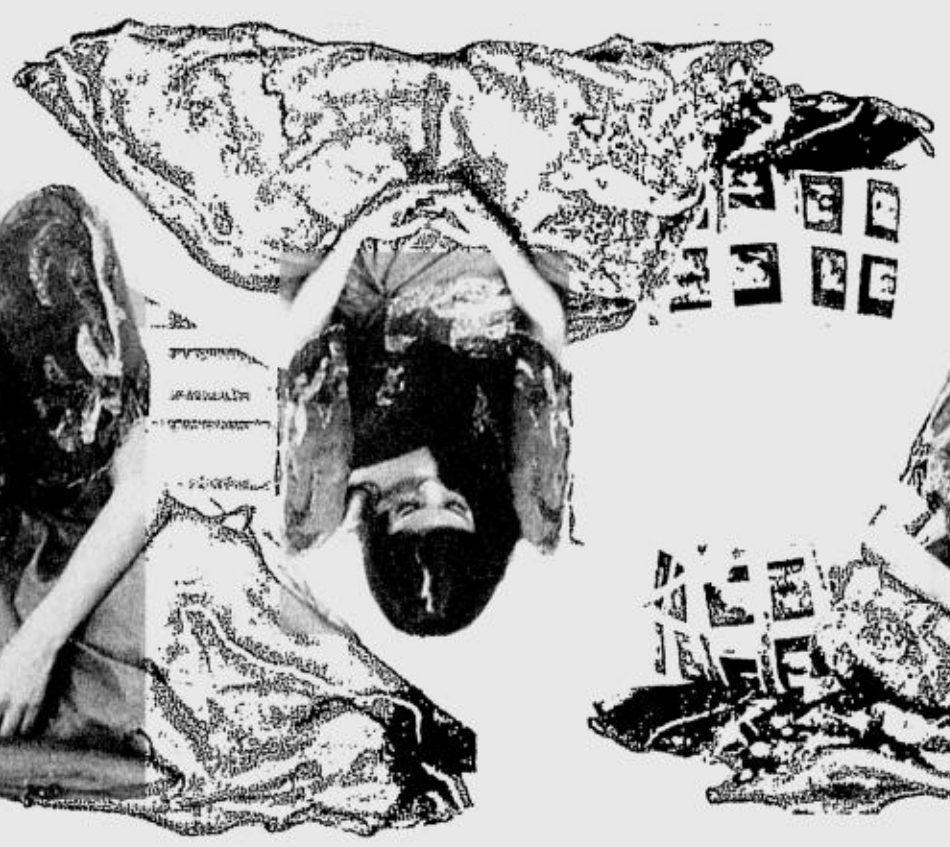
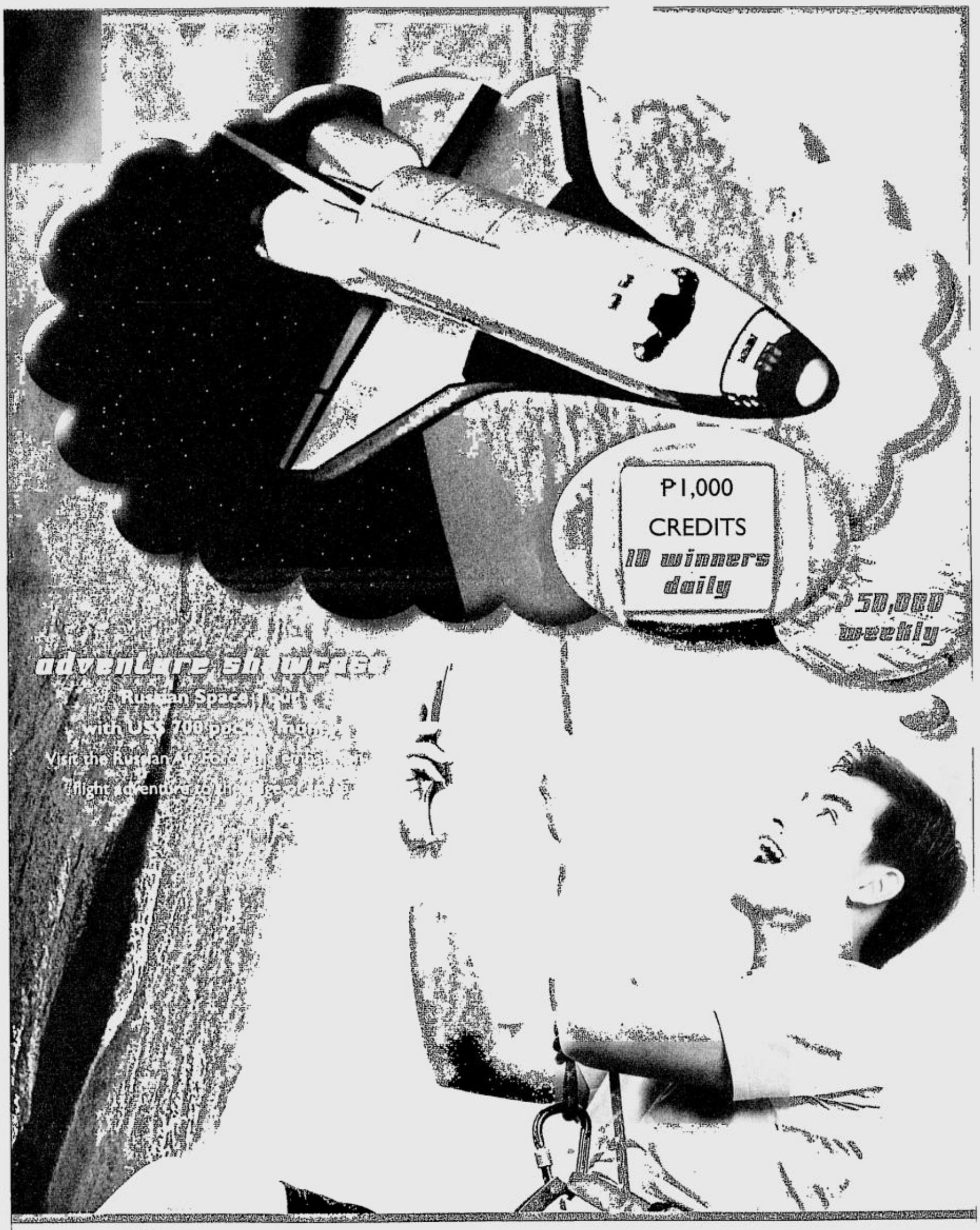
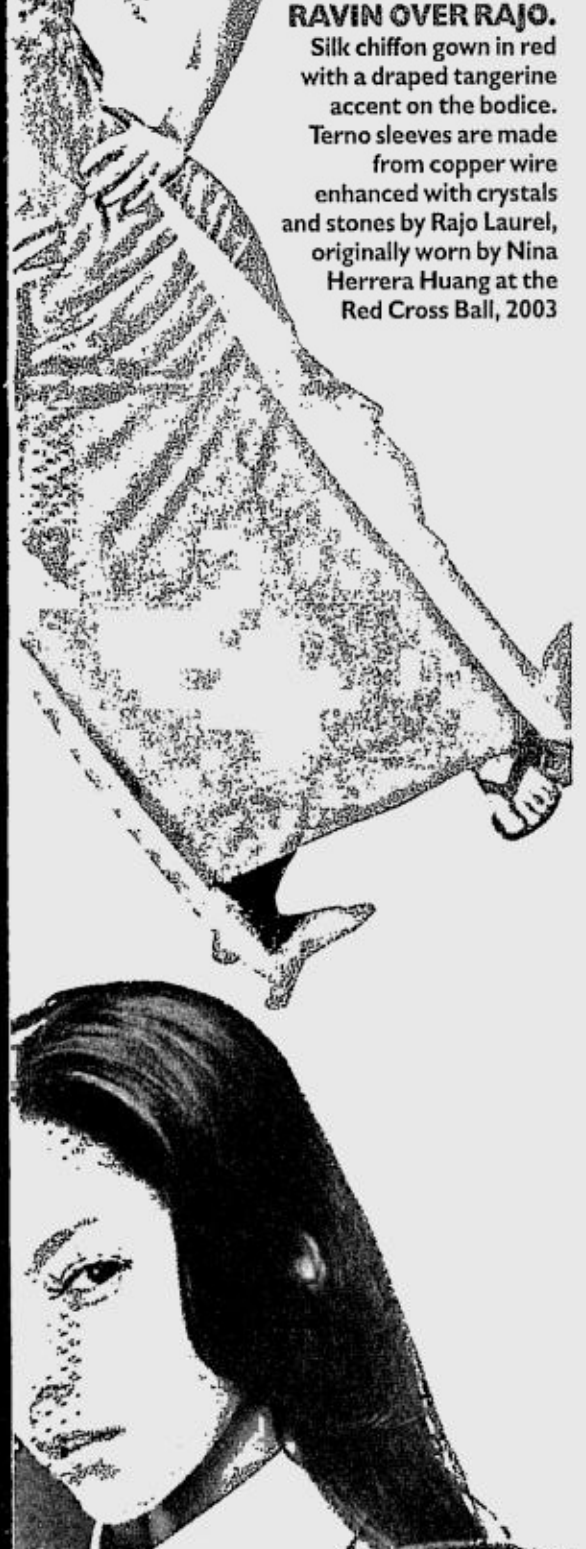
SARIMANOK SEDUCTION.
Magenta terno with velvet chiffon, sequins and tussle made by Mrs. Feliciana Alcantara of Angono, Rizal in 1980. Owned by Michelle Saenz of Angono and worn during the Salubong Ritual of Angono



T BEAD IT.
e terno with beadwork lined with green, and train made with white silk with gold beads and n cape with detachable sleeves by Pancho epo, 2000. Owned by the Negros Museum, lod City and worn by Cristy Baron during the kara Festival turnover ceremony.



RAVIN OVER RAJO.
Silk chiffon gown in red with a draped tangerine accent on the bodice. Terno sleeves are made from copper wire enhanced with crystals and stones by Rajo Laurel, originally worn by Nina Herrera Huang at the Red Cross Ball, 2003



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Neo Old School

This band from Cebu is out to conquer Manila and the rest of the world

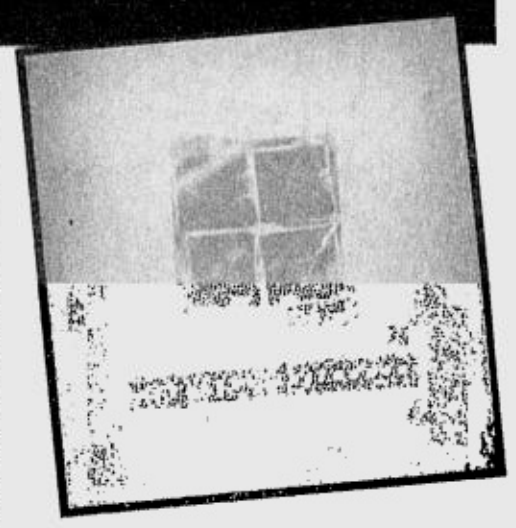
By Jenina F. Alli

FOR most things, young is always better. Nü is always hip. Out with analogue, in with digital. Everyone's itching to fill in the blanks in "____ is the new ____". Example: "White is the new black", "Boxers are the new briefs", "Neo-vintage is the new classic-with-a-twist", "Badminton is the new basketball". Even icons have yielded to the new crop. Madonna could not have more brazenly anointed her heiress apparent when she proclaimed "Hail Britney."

But there are certain non-negotiables that are better served aged and ripe with experience. Take wine. The older the vintage, the better. That has always been the standard and will continue to be. That is why no matter how much twist-off bottles make it easier to indulge in Merlot on a yacht, the on-board veterans who take their yearly Acapulco cruise never fail to pack a corkscrew in their valise.

There may be a point of contention when it comes to women. But the Mrs. Robinsons of the world secretly smile in the knowledge that the only reason them pretty little things are getting good lays is because the boys knew who to come to first.

And when it comes to music, classics rock sans the twist. That's why no matter how many pretty boys are culled from obscure towns in Eastern Europe and taught to lip-synch in English, The Beatles will always, always rule. And no matter how many death anniversary concerts are held for the King, Elvis will always, always live. And, if my two cents can ever be worth anything more, Madonna will be replaced by none, especially not by any blue-blood from the Mickey Mouse Club. The 21st century marks a period in history where legends have been set; where the pantheon of musicians leaves no vacancies; and where the playlist du jour, albeit filled with truly innovative greats like Chicane and MOS, hardly defines the present as a distinctive epoch in the manner that the rock and roll did for the '70s, punk and heavy metal did for the '80s, and grunge did for the '90s.



It is probably in lieu of this that so many musicians now are looking to the past. Michael Bublé, for instance, is crooning ballads from the Nat King Cole era. Evanescence is bringing back the raw and dark elements of pop goth. And on the local front, south of the Luzon border in particular, a band named Urbandub is pumping new energy into the Cebuano scene with music infused with new wave and metal elements.

Around four years ago, an advertising graphics artist, a costume jewelry designer, and two young guys helping out in their respective family businesses decided on a post-day-job venture: putting up a band, the ultimate campus dream.

"We were first a reggae band," says Gab, lead vocal and guitarist. "But later on, the direction kind of changed. By the time we started making more of our own songs, our sound had evolved to rock ... heavy on the guitar riffs and more melodic. But we still want to trip on different styles."

Trying to bring back rock in a music scene that has given way to show band music continues to be a feat. But Urbandub and a lot of other bands in Cebu continue to keep the faith. After all, not everyone can stand yet another rendition of "Buttercup." To further give the heads up on the Cebuano music scene, Urbandub did a bar tour in Manila that lasted roughly two weeks, from late October to the first week of this month.

Their gigs were well attended, especially by purveyors in both the pop and indie music scene. Needless to say, the band from the land of the best dried mangoes were thrilled by the prospect of sharing a stage with bands they admired. But once their instruments were plugged in, they were anything but performers on amateurs night. They rocked it out with the rest and the best of them.

"We wanted to prove that Cebu does have a thriving rock music subculture," Gab adds.

"We're proud of where we come from, though English *ang* lyrics, Cebuano *ang puso*."

It's also quite a spectacle to see the lone girl in the group, Lalay, behind a bass guitar and a mic. But true enough, as the designated nicotine and alcohol-free member of the group, Lalay keeps the boys in check by mere example alone. "When we're on the road and we're sharing a house, we're forced to be clean. *Nakakahiya, eh!*" Make no mistake, though, the girl can dish out mean bass lines if she has to.

People who've listened to Urbandub can't help tagging them as a mellower take on the Deftones, which Gab finds flattering. "I'm big on New Wave ... mga Depeche Mode, Jeff Buckley," he reveals. "Si John (the guitarist) brings the metal side to our band, he loves heavy. Lalay is more on grunge, like STP, Alice in Chains, early '90s music. Jeros, our drummer, listens to a lot of alternative but also loves punk. He's in another band in Cebu, a punk band named Left of Center, one of the pillars of the punk music scene in Cebu. So he brings the punk influence sa Urbandub. But Deftones is our common denominator."

The future of Urbandub, and of Cebu's rock scene, is yet to be determined. Right now, the band is still reveling in the high of having come out with their independently produced album, Influence. But the four of them right now, especially after having been warmly received in Manila, are taking things in stride, enjoying the moment, and raring to make more music. "How many bands can come to Manila and share gig nights with bands that they really look up to?" Gab says, truly oblivious to the tables of screaming girls who secretly gave me the evil eye as I cornered him for this interview.

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The taming of the screw

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

SWAK!

by Lex

Robin Padilla isn't called Bad Boy for nothing. Joey Marquez nearly had his you-know-what crushed. Jay Manalo has seven kids by five women

I HEARD an urban legend that Sen. Ramon Revilla's primary goal in life is to sire one child for every barangay in Cavite, and that he intends this to be his greatest legacy to the country. He is rumored to have 80 kids and counting. If this is indeed his quest, at least he can face his Creator in the end with his head held high, knowing he did not lead a purposeless existence.

Many others in local show biz seem to have followed the esteemed senator's example. Dolphy, while an extraordinary actor, is preceded by his reputation as a ladies' man. Robin Padilla isn't called Bad Boy for nothing. Joey Marquez nearly had his balls crushed on account of his philandering ways. Ex-President Joseph Estrada had two First Ladies and several other women in the wings. Jay Manalo, an up and coming bold star, has seven kids by five women.

It seems to be the ultimate proof of virility to be able to say: "Don't mess with me, I'm a certified baby-making machine!"

Ancient secret revealed

All you women, listen up. I am about to let you in on a secret and, in the process, break a time-honored secret code for which I could be tried for treason by fellow males: **men cheat because women tolerate it.**

Even strong, educated women allow their husbands and boyfriends to go on regular Boys' Nights Out (a euphemism for frequenting girly bars and massage parlors). The women choose to look away, telling themselves: "*Ganyan talaga ang lalake.*" So Mr. Macho Male carries on smugly, telling himself: "If I can have my cake and eat it too, why the hell not?"

I mean, ladies, did you really think your partners go to karaoke bars to work out their vocal cords? Like our Japanese and Korean neighbors, we may love to sing but I assure you, men don't go to these places because they all aspire to become the next Martin Nievera.

The solution

I can hear the feminists' protest: "Are you saying we are to blame for your stupidity?"

No, I'm not. Allow me to suggest a few solutions for the problem of cheating men.

First off, fight fire with fire. Why hasn't anyone devised a Girl's Night Out? And mind you, I'm not talking about a bunch of women getting their nails done or spending a day at the spa.

Pinoy men would rather die than have their women "taken advantage of" by other men. Trust me on this. Which brings me to another point: aren't all these sideline trophy chicks someone else's daughter or sister, too?

Second, go nuts! When you catch your man with his hand in the cookie jar, don't cry in a corner and find solace in the arms of your girlfriends. Don't whimper and beg. Instead, go berserk, hit the roof, threaten to leave, maybe even leave! Say: "You know what, I deserve better! And if you don't think so, sorry buddy, I'm outta here!"

Philandering men need to be dealt with like dirty politicians. You can either take all their corruption and abuse sitting down, or you can take a stand. Who knows? If you go out on a limb and put your foot down for a change, you might just be surprised with the results.

For comments, e-mail the author at swak@info.com.ph

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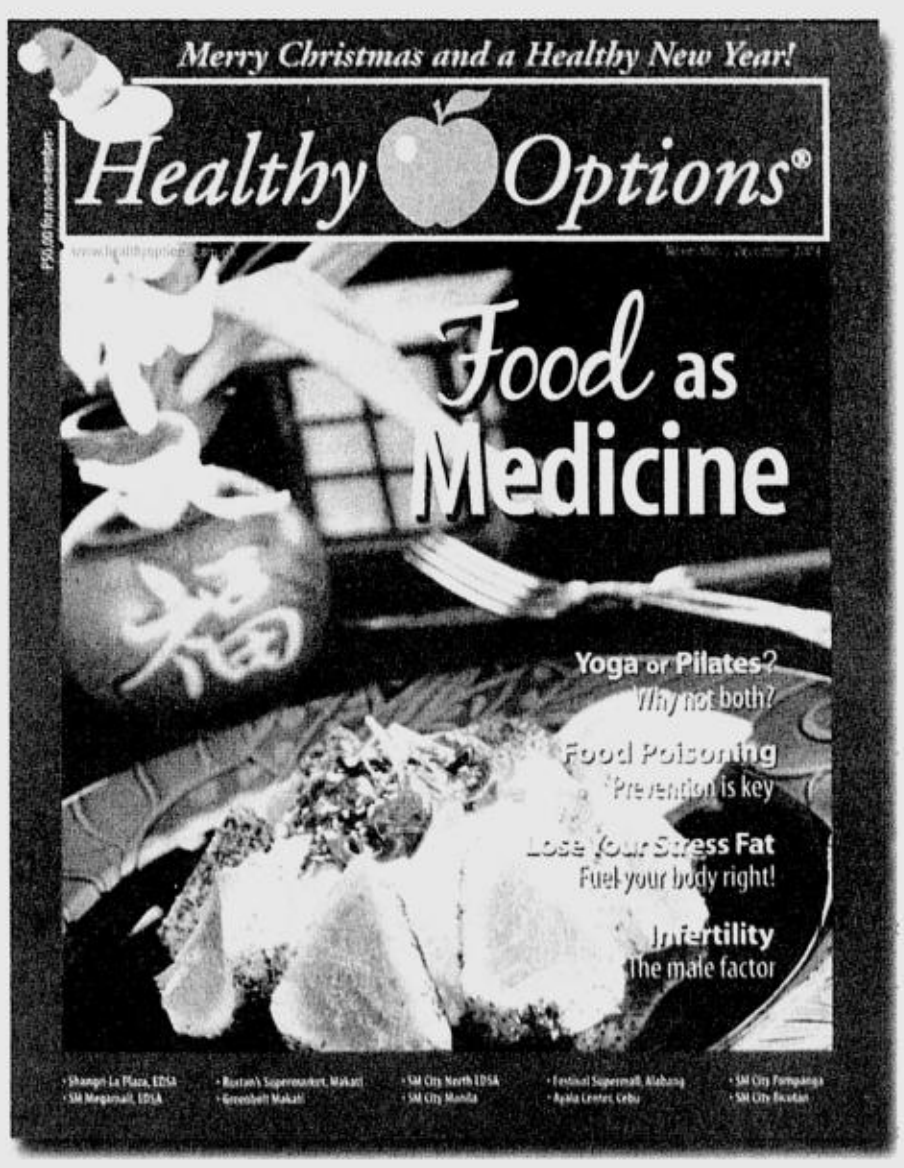

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DIABETES and LIFESTYLE

Exercise is Willpower

Diabetes management can be grueling; it is easy to get discouraged. It is tough enough to puncture your finger to test your blood glucose level every so often, what more to make exercise part of your life! How do you convince yourself to make yet another big change?

The answer lies in knowing, with all certainty, how exercise will help you control diabetes.

Exercise:

- lowers blood glucose level by using up some glucose as energy during and after the physical activity
- reduces risk of cardiovascular diseases that come with diabetes
- reduces stress which alters blood glucose level

Taking It One Step at a Time

Now, that you have psyched yourself to give up the couch and to make time for exercise, you need to take this change one step at a time to increase your chances of succeeding.

See your doctor before you begin - Have a thorough medical examination. The results will help you and your doctor choose the kind of exercise you can do based on your specific health condition, diabetes treatment plan and fitness level.

Set your Goals - Goals should be realistic, measurable, specific. It is good to set both short and long term goals. Breaking it down that way makes matters less overwhelming.

Draw up an Exercise Plan and again with the help of your doctor, you can discuss extensively what type of exercise that is good for you, how often and the times you need to test your blood glucose level, among others. Dr. Teresa Plata Que, Vice President of the Philippine Diabetes Association, explains that a diabetic should exercise for a minimum of 30 minutes per session, 3 times a week. Aerobic exercise such as brisk walking, swimming, cycling, jogging, is highly recommended. Dr. Que also says that 10-16 weeks of exercise can produce weight loss of 0.6 kg in women and 1.3 kg in men*

Exercising Right

It took a lot of willpower to get you started. Be sure to exercise properly and reap its benefits, not run risks.

Reduce Risk of Hypoglycemia
Ask your doctor what your blood glucose levels should be before and after a physical activity. Rest if you find yours too low.

Warm Up to prepare your body for exercise and prevent injuries by stretching and flexing muscles.

Cool Down to return the body, heart rate, respiration, and glucose levels to its normal state.

Drink fluids before, during and after exercise to prevent dehydration and to help replace the fluids and nutrients your body loses during exercise.

Be with an exercise buddy to keep you company, and of course, motivated.

Wear the right shoes to avoid sores and blisters.

Complement regular exercise with Glucerna SR! Glucerna SR is a convenient low-calorie meal or snack replacement for diabetics complete with all essential vitamins and minerals. SR stands for slow release carbohydrate that results in a lower blood glucose level.
The fat formulation is high in Mono-unsaturated Fatty Acids that help keep lipid levels in check and provide other benefits for cardiac health. It is also lactose-free and gluten-free with soluble fiber content that is healthy for the gut. Glucerna SR is available in delicious buttery caramel vanilla flavor.

Take control of your diabetes. Let exercise be one proof you can!

*(Bator and Keesey, 1991)

Tabu Sweetest Affair

Men have found an answer to the existential question, "Why am I here on this earth?"

By Martin Valdes

God bless Louis Reard.

In the mid 1940s, a French engineer with some time on his hands and not a lot of fabric, designed the world's smallest two-piece bathing suit. He dubbed it the Bikini—whether after the atoll or the atomic blast that was tested in the same region is a debate no one has pursued. Monsieur Reard trumpeted this creation as "smaller than the world's smallest bathing suit," but the fuss it generated registered on the fashion Richter scale. Conservatives condemned it, Hollywood endorsed it, and men everywhere found an answer to the existential question, "Why am I here on this earth?"

We all know that there is more to women's swimwear than just the bikini—I just happen to have a healthy preference for them. But modern women's swimwear is an industry unto itself, boasting a variety of styles, fabrics and accessories specifically engineered to complement women. The evolution of the woman's swimsuit has been dramatic, and today's beaches are proof that hydro-fashion is peaking. Comfort, durability and aesthetic have all been taken into account to ensure that a woman in a swimsuit is a woman in her element.

Enter Tabu. Tabu Swimwear was established in 2001 by co-proprietors Amanda Griffin and Isabel Engwa. Located in the Upper Level of the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza, Tabu Swimwear has already acquired a reputation of being one of the best places to purchase quality merchandise in the Philippines. While primarily focusing on swimwear, which is exclusively imported from Australia, other products ranging from underwear, slippers, towels, beach bags and various accessories are also available for the female aquatic aesthete. I love the fact that Tabu is comprised entirely of an all-woman team, emphasizing their dedication to the needs and wants of their clientele. I go to stare at the posters, hoping they miraculously come to life. Next week, they will.

On Wednesday, November 26, Tabu Swimwear celebrates its second anniversary in style. "An Affair with Tabu" will be held at the NBC Tent at The Fort at 8 p.m., with a fashion show highlighting a bevy of celebrity models including Cindy Kurleto, Maritoni Fernandez, Rissa Samson and Amanda Griffin among others. Also showcasing Tabu's new Christmas and 2004 lines are Channel [V] VJ Sarah Tan and Thai supermodel Cindy Burbridge. I once had the exquisite pleasure of dining out with all these women at the same time in a cozy restaurant in Bordeaux, so I can personally attest to the fact that these are the most stunning ladies one can ever hope of sharing a bouillabaisse with. Unfortunately, I woke up, so I hope to remind them of our brief metaphysical acquaintance next Wednesday.

To provide audio to the visual experience, international DJ Greg Pagneux will be providing the soundtrack to the night's festivities. I also heard Brad Turvey and Troy Montero may be there, but unless they're handing out binoculars, I will charitably leave their attentions to the female population. As an added bonus, all women get into "An Affair with Tabu" absolutely free! As of this writing, I have already shaved my legs and commandeered my sister's dress in preparation for next week's rendition of Tootsie. To top it off, Bailey's is flavoring the whole celebration. Gorgeous ladies, quality fashion, good music, and Bailey's, this promises to be an affair to remember. I usually spend my Wednesday nights watching classic films. Next week, I will have to choose between "The Empire Strikes Back" and Tania Paulsen revealing her back. I'm sorry, Luke, but the Force is strong with this one.

The Filipina woman is a thing of wonder. She is intelligent, she is sensitive, and she is beautiful. Tabu Swimwear affirms these virtues, encouraging the Filipina to revel in her attributes. "An Affair with Tabu" is an invitation to all. Women, make your selves proud. Men, make your selves happy.

An Affair with Tabu happens on Wednesday, November 26, at the NBC Tent, The Fort at 8 pm. For ticket information, contact Tabu Swimwear at (02)8123952 or email tabuswimwear@hotmail.com. Tickets are also available at Tabu Swimwear, Upper Level, The Plaza Building, Greenbelt, Makati City.

Paris is porn again

PARIS is about to explode—and we don't mean the city.

This past week or so, news broke out about a sex tape featuring Paris Hilton, the 22-year-old partygirl-slash-billion-dollar-heiress to the Hilton hotel fortune.

The video shows Paris doing the deed with ex-beau Rick Solomon. Rick was also the reason for a much-publicized catfight between Paris and Shannen Doherty in the past.

The 45-minute production was reportedly sold by an acquaintance of Solomon to a website for $50,000. Paris was only 19 when the video was filmed.

Now, internet hounds are going crazy downloading three-minute teaser clips from various sources.

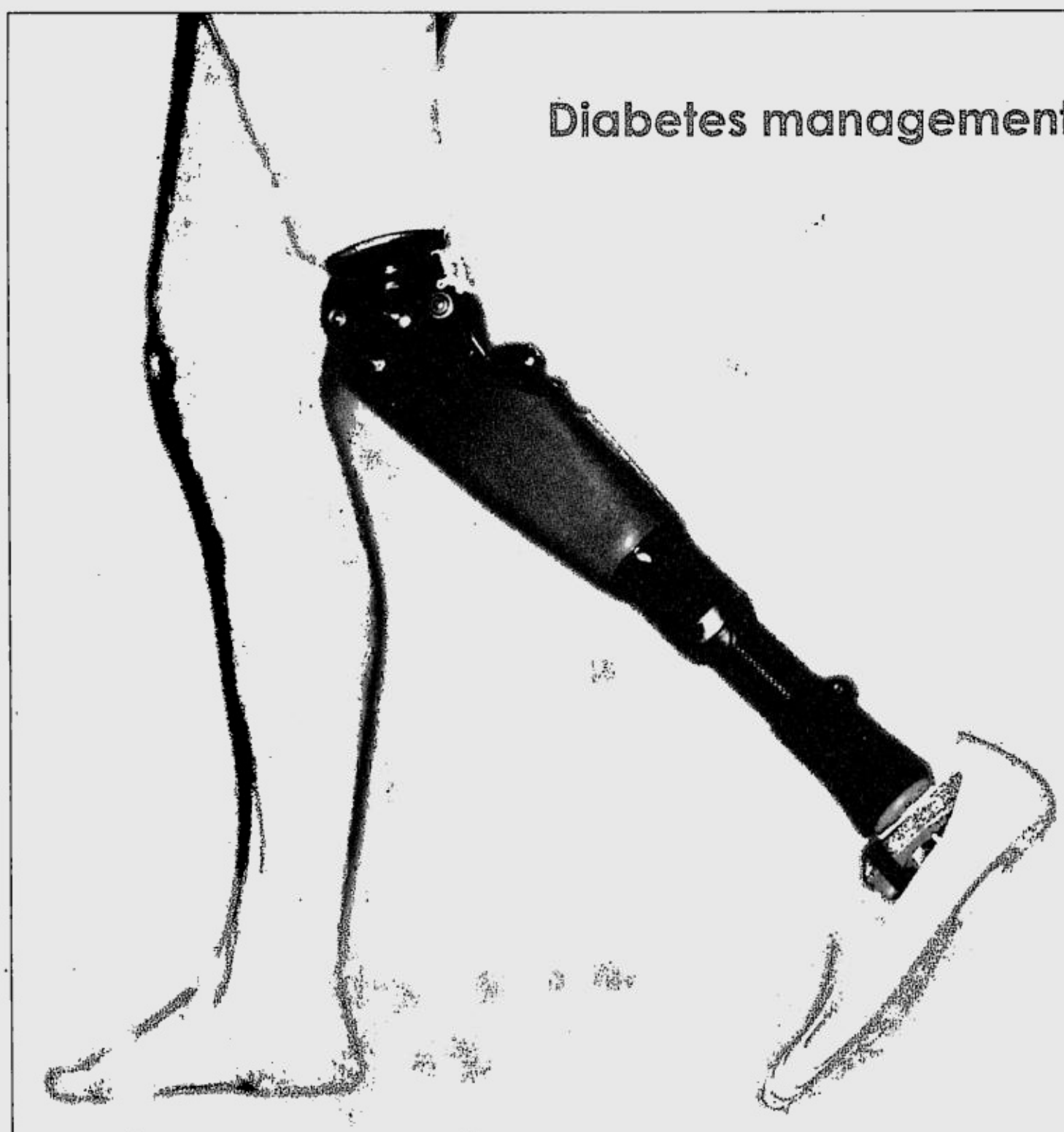
According to an article from Eonline.com, a search for "Paris Hilton Sex Tape" on the file-sharing site KaZaA leads to clips of everything from large naked women doing provocative dances to a monkey drinking its own urine." We don't know about that, we found it on the first try.

Her lawyers have been working overtime to stop the distribution of the dirty video but now, just days later, a second video has reportedly surfaced. The second video supposedly shows Paris with Playboy playmate Nicole Lenz playing with sex toys. It was allegedly shot after Hilton's 22nd birthday party in Las Vegas in February.

Just weeks ago, Paris was also the talk of the Internet community when clips of her soon-to-be-aired reality-TV series showed her saying, "Walmart, what's that, do they like, sell walls?" The show, called "The Simple Life," focuses on what happens when Paris abandons her lavish lifestyle to live in a farm in Arkansas with a small-town family.

She may have billions of dollars, sports cars and servants waiting on her constantly but right now, we so do not want to be Paris Hilton.

Right, Ruffa and Donita?



Diabetes management is not a walk in the park.

Uncontrolled blood sugar can lead to debilitating or severely damaging complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

Take the first step in glucose control with Glucerna SR.

Small steps can have huge payoffs. Making Glucerna SR a part of your diet and exercise regimens can give you better glycemic control and improved quality of life.

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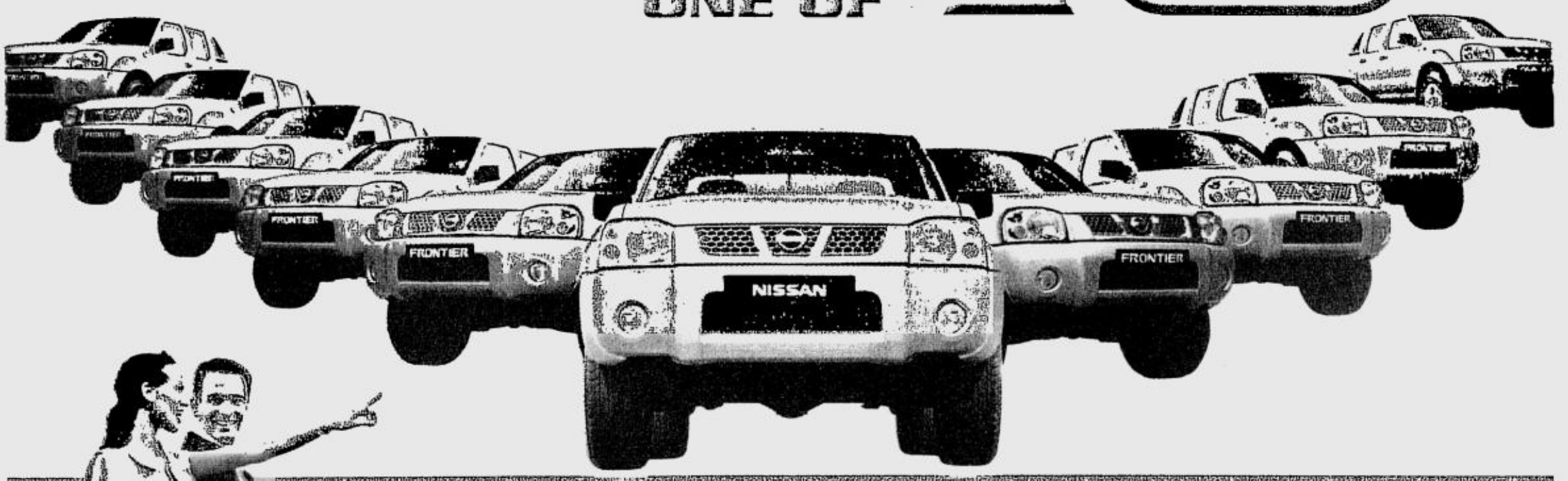

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SATURDAYS

Sniff, swirl, swish

Text and photos by Tim Yap

HUNTER Valley wine experts Karl Stockhausen, Ruth Velasco Co, Bea Zobel Jr. and Maurice Arcache

SUPER! IN SYDNEY. The author rides high in the Land Down Under

THINK of Australia and immediately, images of kangaroos, koalas and Kylie Minogue come to mind. Lately, another thing has been making our Aussie mates popular around the world. Word is out that Australian wine is topping the charts.

"According to the latest statistics, Australian wine had finally overtaken France on the shelves of Britain's high streets," says UK wine expert **Robert Joseph**. And no, he's not a Kylie fan.

But I am. So upon the invitation of the Hunter Valley Wine Society, I joined a group of pleasure seekers—lifestyle journalists, gourmet lovers and wannabe wine enthusiasts on a tour of the city where the TV show Neighbors was born, and onto their finest "neighboring" vineyards.

Our motley crew was led by fine life connoisseur couple **Arnold and Ruth Co**, who after bringing in premium brands like Haagen Dazs, Oliver's, and soon, Max Brenner to Manila's taste buds, are now venturing onto the art of sniffing, swishing and swirling Australian Wines, particulary that of the Hunter Valley Wine Society, one of the most renowned in the world.

Together, they gathered our group—a diverse mix of scene movers and shakers—for a holiday hodge podge filled with laughter and a lot of fun loving!

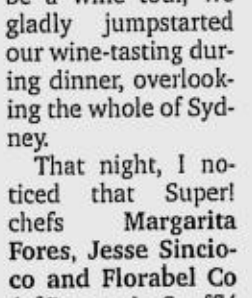
Dahling cruise

Our trip started with a cruise along Sydney's famous harbor, cheesily called Darling, or as **Maurice Arcache** would put it, Dahling—where we all took out our handy digicam and took snapshots of each other like kids on a field day. But it was later at dinner that I started getting to know my Oz travel mates better.

Since it was gonna be a wine tour, we gladly jumpstarted our wine-tasting during dinner, overlooking the whole of Sydney.

That night, I noticed that Super! chefs **Margarita Fores, Jesse Sincioco and Florabel Co** (of Pepato, Le Soufflé and Top of the Citi—three of our most respected restos) all had kitchen fixations. So while I would either people-watch or have my photo taken inside the clubs, they would rather have their photos taken by the kitchen, or with the celebrity chef. Later during the trip, my bonding moments with them would take place in-

SNIFF/ K2



HAPPY birthday, Greg Walls!

A PREVIEW of Bea Zobel Jr., best in billiards

HUNTER Valley class valedictorian Karen Santos

A PRAYING preggy Pauline Juan

A PEPPER Teehankee pose

SUPER G! Gaita Fores

Sniff, swirl, swish

From page K1

side restaurants, and get this—on a supermarket tour of the city.

But that would mean straying from my story, which is really all about our Hunter Valley experience, where we all headed to the following day. Of course, unbeknownst to them, I started my exploration of Sydney nightlife a tad too early.

Hunter Valley is situated within a two-hour drive north of Sydney, where wine-producing families such as the Lindemans, Draytons and Tyrrells set up their vineyards. As early as the 1820s, the likes of **James Busby** and **George Wyndham** had planted the seeds that would later grow into Australia's finest wine region—with over 80 vineyards all a hop and a skip away from each other.

Semillon and Shiraz

Fast forward to now. The two most popular varieties of the region are without doubt Semillon and Shiraz. Based on our Wine Education 101 (one of the many perks that one gets upon joining the Hunter Valley Wine Society), Hunter Semillon (pronounced 'semee-yon', which is gourmand of a travelmate **Karen Santos**' favorite wine) has a unique style not found elsewhere in Australia.

When young (look at the date), this white wine displays the characteristic lemon and lime nuances—fresh and austere—perfect for seafood! Hunter Shiraz, however, shows wonderful, red (just like our travel buddy Rita Dy's sleepwear—okay, private joke here), berry flavors along with a peppery and earthy character. The more emotive description of a "sweaty saddle" is sometimes true—giddiyap!

Sounds like wine jargon? Not entirely. Over the next course of days, we did find ourselves vineyard hopping, with Australia's top experts on innebriation teaching us how to sniff and savor, then spit out the wines. "When you taste this much wine, you can't drink them all," said one expert.

Well, I can! I never spit it out, I always swallowed (the wine, you dirty-minded scoundrel)—which is maybe why I can't recall much of the trip, except for our fab nightly excursions within each other's rooms at Cypress Lakes (which kinda reminds me of Tagaytay Highlands) plus our laugh trips at the back of the shuttle. Remember during field trips when the noisy ones stayed at the back? Well, that was where my favorite Johnny Litton (who is actually even funnier in person), art activist **Bea Zobel Jr.** (whose heart for Filipino arts I so admire) and gentleman companion **Joel Uichico** (never a dull moment with this dude), fab friend **Karen Santos** (our Hunter Valley batch valedictorian) and my spice buddy **Pepper Teehankee** (who, as we all know, can do awesome head stands) and I were situated, rolling out punchlines one after another—and we blamed it on the wine.

Kangaroos and koalas

After wearing hard hats exploring wineries and going into basements trying out more red and white concoctions, I also recall receiving a certificate—all of us being founding members of Hunter Valley Philippines. Even the baby inside a very preggy but slim Preview mag editor **Pauline Suaco-Juan** was anointed new member. Not to forget èlan's graceful **Marge Enriquez**, who had to jet back to Manila earlier than us to take care of her well-read and respected Saturday section. "My readers need me," she soberly told us.

I hatched a plan to set up The Star's **Lynette Corporal** with one of our travel buds, but I later found out that she is very much married, just like my friends **Sander**and **Mons Romulo-Tantoco**, who were holding each other's hands every chance they had. It was like a second honeymoon for them. (I stayed with them most of the time—I even stayed in the same room with them, my apologies for the disturbance my loneliness has caused).

And oh, we did get to see the kangaroos and the koalas on our way back to Sydney after a fruitful (more like grape-filled) stay at Hunter Valley. But what made it extra special, aside from the super exciting newfound knowledge on wines, were the friendships formed—discoveries made while sipping the flavors of a winemaker's craft, the bonding that transpires over a good meal, the toast to good times ahead.

In vino veritas. Cheers! Now if I could only find Miss Minogue...

(For more info on Hunter Valley Wine Society, call 687-7964, fax 637-4958, email huntervalleyws@mail.com, customer service 687-9295.)

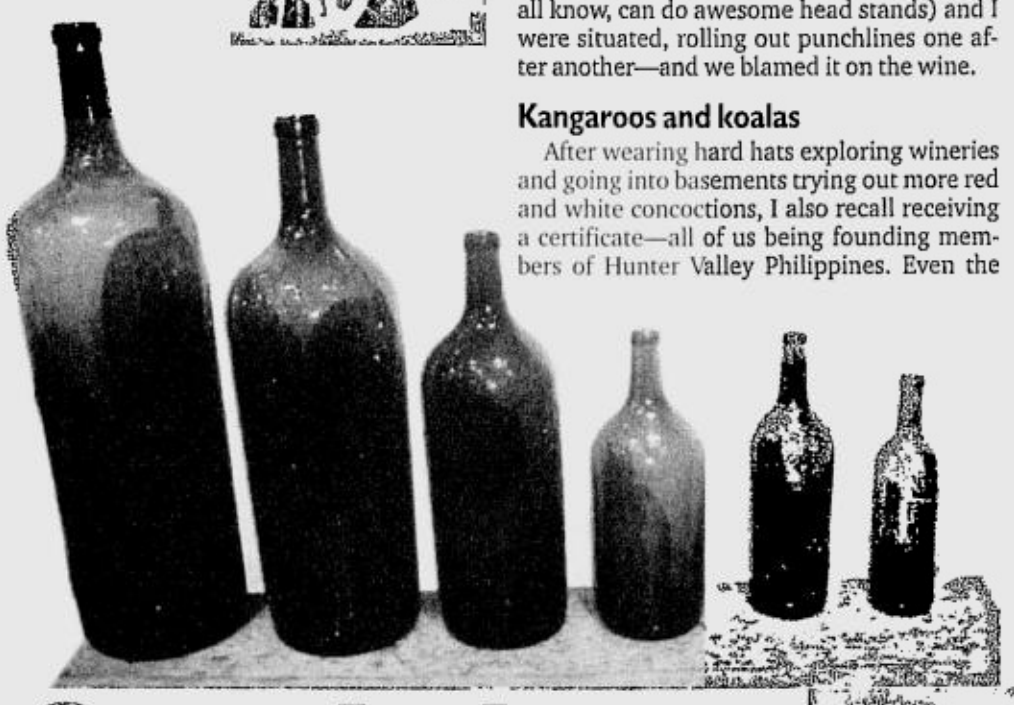
WINE bonding with Bea, Karen and Margarita

CHEFS ON PARADE. Le Soufflé's Jesse Sincioco and Florabel Co of Top of the Citi

FOUNDING member Bea with Hunter Valley Wine Society head honcho Arnold Co

ME and my friend Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I LOVE the wild life!



ROBERTO Cojuangco cooking sinigang at home in Sydney

MONS Romulo-Tantoco sets sail with her new book

SINGAPORE SEDUCTION. Sexy and sassy Rita Dy

OH YES, AGAIN! It's Maurice Arcache and Johnny Litton

SWELL TIME. Bea Zobel Jr. and Joel Uichico

PEPATO AND TETSUYA. Gaita Fores with Tetsuya himself

DRINK UP. Ruth takes it straight from the barrel

SANDER and Mons holding hands

SLEEPLESS IN SYDNEY. Roberto Cojuangco and Patchouly Wijangco

TON Wijangco

MET up with my Celini in Sydney

THREE PLY. Lynnette Corporal, Pauline Juan and Florabel Co

WINE education class 101. Can I go to the advanced level? I've drunk too much already

FOUNDING members of Hunter Valley Wine Society strike a graduation pose at Robert's

Super! wine tasting notes

HOLDING your glass by its base and tilting it away from you, observe the color of your wine. It should be clear. The color is a clue to its age, wine variety and perhaps, sweetness.

Hold the glass upright by its base and give it a brisk swirl (except of course for bubblies). This should release the wines' aromas, especially in the case of aged wines that have been cellared.

Place the glass up to your nose, and inhale—be seduced by the fragrance. Try to put a name to the aromas—oak, peppery, backcurrant, Aubrey Miles, it's up to you. The smell of the wine is its nose. The nose is where all the complex flavors are that enhance the taste.

And finally, take a mouthful and swish around your mouth (sucking in air as the professionals do!) Let the wine cover all the corners of your taste buds. Now you're really tasting the wine. From here you can choose to swallow or spit (just aim at the spittoon, and not at someone's face)—the choice is yours.

Remember wine is good for you—especially in moderation.

Wine	Food matches
Chardonnay	Crab, seafood, creamy pastas, white meats
Semillon	Oysters, roasted almonds, cold chicken salads
Riesling	Asian influenced dishes, plain fresh seafood, kangaroo
Sauvignon Blanc	fresh asparagus, raw veggies, stuffed pears with goats cheese, king prawn risotto
Verdelho	BBQ scallops, salmon, rocket salad
Shiraz	A meal in itself, heavily sauced roast meats, crumbly cheeses
Cabernet Sauvignon	Warrants a big, hearty meal, eg. roast beef, casserole, chocolate
Merlot	Lamb black bean stir fry, antipasto
Pinot Noir	Roasted duck, Peking Duck, Bok Choy and Oyster sauce
Chambourcin	Italian sausages, mild beef curries

Romancing a stone

Man about town

CHUCK DY!

DEAR Man About Town,

I've been courting the same girl for several years now. We have never gotten together because she's "not ready for a serious relationship." As soon as she is, she says, I will be the first one she will consider. I really love her, but I'm tired of waiting. What should I do?

There is nothing quite as tragic as unrequited love. Romantic history, from Shakespeare to Xerex Xaviera, is studded with sordid examples of emotional one-way traffic. I once experienced the pain of investing in hours of inane phone conversations and hundreds of pesos on Hen Lin dim sum, at the end of which she still refused to share my deep feelings or the bill. Those were three wasted days I shall never recover from. I commiserate with you, fellow reject.

On a positive note, you have managed to detach yourself from the harsh reality long enough to make an objective assessment of your situation. Most victims caught in the web of passion struggle without method or reason, ensnaring themselves deeper into the filaments of a phantom relationship. But you have been able to recognize that you are a fly in this disappointment, allowing you ample time to make your escape or take your chances. Make a comprehensive appraisal of your current situation, and then decide to either pursue a course of further involvement, or cash in your chips and call it quits.

Retreating from a stalled relationship is unfortunately bereft of traditional notions of romance and nobility, but it is important to note that there is no shame in leaving to love another day. Did not Eros forsake Psyche due to a lack of faith on her part? Did not Kris dump Joey because he purportedly poked her with a firearm ? Did not Natalie Portman leave Gael Garcia Bernal to pursue me? This last scenario hasn't happened yet, but I'm working on it.

Consider your case carefully. You have courted this girl for *several* years. The duration alone is mystifying and I don't know whether I should clap you on the back or slap you in the face. I suppose, I must at least laud your diligence ... you fool. She says she is not ready for a serious relationship? Fair enough. But there is no guarantee that when she is, you will be the one to stake that claim.

Best-friend paradigms hardly ever evolve until 20 years later, after her first few lovers have come and gone (didn't you watch "Forrest Gump" or read "Love in the Time of Cholera?") and she notices that you are still waiting. I strongly advise against such absurd sentimentality. A possible outcome of such frustrated tenacity could have you resenting your current infatuation. I, myself have a repertoire of failed relationships , I collectively dub Despise Girls.

On the other hand, the eventual fulfillment of a hard-fought romance is the stuff of paperback legend, inspiring insipid poetry, Nora Ephron films, and Kleenex sales worldwide. Everybody wants to have a good story to tell their grandchildren: how *lolo* stood outside *lola's* window for a whole year, while local villagers ridiculed and pigeons shat on him, until she relented and decided to make that handsome man covered in fertilizer the father of her children. Do you fancy yourself a candidate for this brand of martyrdom?

If you decide to tread the oft-treacherous path of unanswered affection, imagine yourself a gladiator about to do battle, entering an arena crammed with a multitude of spectators (well, this *is* a national newspaper), prepared to fight for another's heart or die with a broken one. Your persistence could be proof that she is your destiny or your ruin—which turns out to be the same thing in many cases. You who are about to try, I salute you!

Let us just hope she deserves this. Maybe she did years ago, when you first started calling on her. But that doesn't mean the premise is still valid today. Some sufferers of unrequited love eventually mistake protracted pursuit for grand passion. Please find a moment to ask: "Do I really want a relationship with this person, or have I made the chase so integral to my own life that I no longer care if she has developed halitosis over time, or has begun to express supportive opinion for genocidal warfare?" It is delightfully macabre how countless couples manage to finally get together, only to realize they can't stand one another.

On the other hand, you should also make sure you are the right man for her. Now, *this* could be a humbling experience, one that requires an *amour-propre*, an honest estimation of your worth. If you truly care for this woman, would you not want the best for her? Do you fit the bill? Let's face it, after several years of courtship, I think you can rule out instant attraction as an aspect of your relationship. You may count intelligence, good looks and a sense of humor as your strong points, but if she didn't take to you in the first year, I'm not sure how much more appealing you can become unless you win the lottery.

And while we're on the subject, why not take a few more steps back and ponder if you are the right gender, to begin with. She could be lesbian, buddy, in which case you'd have to resign yourself to a lost cause, save money for a sex change, or weave this new dimension into your current fantasies.

If you do decide to hunker down for the long haul, there are several exercises I propose you incorporate into your lifestyle. Engage in regular physical activity and develop an impressive physique to discourage competition. Deviate from routine—for example, send less text messages—to shake her from any complacency she has surely developed. Be unavailable once in awhile. Mysteriously say things like, "Didn't I tell you I was going to be in Mongolia?" Practice breathing methods similar to those employed in pilates or yoga workouts; this will help you maintain composure in the midst of crisis situations, like when she finally says she sees you as a brother. Save every penny for the wedding when she comes to her senses, or for the massive alcohol binge when you come to yours. Either way, I'd like to be invited.

E-mail the author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com

"I REALLY think we're made for each other."

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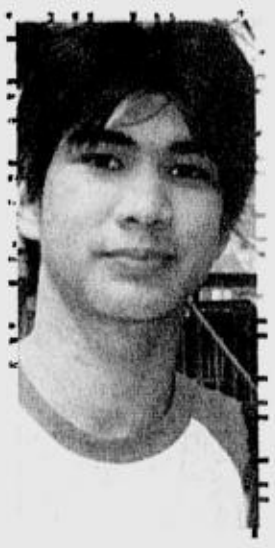
SUPERFRIENDS!
Student bodies

Text and photos by Gino de la Paz

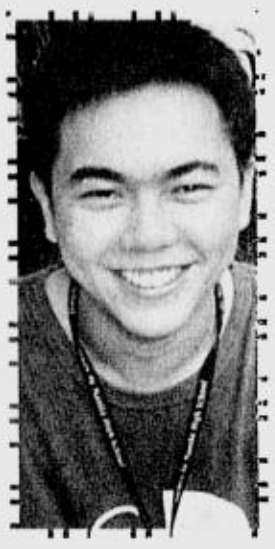
Super! swooped down on unsuspecting undergrads and shot the breeze with them as they pondered the meaning of college life. Our new Super! friends threw down their thoughts on women, whining, and the cartoon characters of their dreams. Read on, holler back, and hook up.

If you want to appear in our Super! pages, please drop a line and send us your profile, with a few quirky soundbites about your life, and a photo to super@inquirer.com.ph



Hey! My name is Johan Uichico.
Women are women because they aren't men.
Words women overuse are everything in their vocabulary.
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Haruko.
Hit me back at yoja_03@yahoo.com

Hey! My name is Czarina Serrano.
Women possess better and stronger stamina because we can shop all day and not get tired!
Words women overuse are I'm so fat!
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Sponge Bob.
Hit me back at sassygurl_020@yahoo.com.



Hey! My name is Chicco Gomez.
Women are physics books because they are difficult to understand.
Words women overuse are Oh my god ...
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Wilma Flinstone.
Hit me back at chicco_gomez @yahoo.com

Hey! My name is Pao.
Women are mysterious because you can't really determine what's in their heads.
Words women overuse are Oh my God!; How do I look?; I feel fat.
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Kim Possible.
Hit me back at paoloconstantino @hotmail.com

Hey! My name is Paola Francisco.
Women are lucky because they can get away with almost anything.
Words women overuse are It was on sale!
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Fred from Scooby Doo (although he could be gay with that scarf).
Hit me back at choclatemint @hotmail.com.

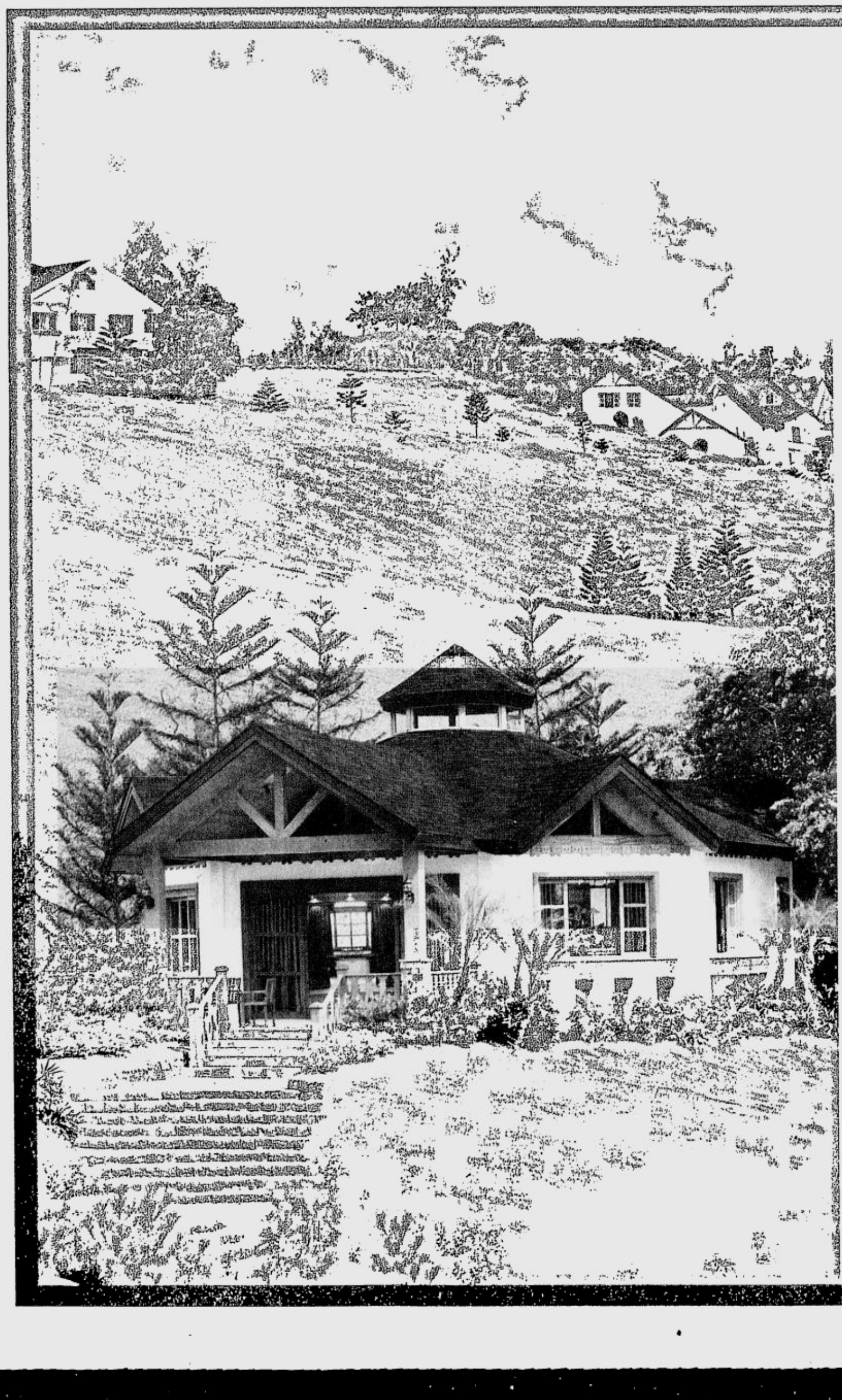
Hey! My name is Gerard Stevens.
Women are fickle because they can't make up their minds.
Words women overuse are Promise; We'll see; I'm not sure; Maybe.
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Holly from "Cool World."
Hit me back at mistaphatone @hotmail.com

Hey! My name is Raffy del Rosario.
Women are great because you'd get into trouble if you didn't say that!
Words women overuse are "Are you serious?"
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Cheetara from Thundercats (meow!)
Hit me back at pawster@iname.com

Hey! My name is Lizsa Wongchuking.
Women are good businesswomen because they can spot a good bargain.
Words women overuse are I'm too fat!
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Batman.
Hit me back at jiglizsa@hotmail.com

Hey! My name is Tin Lim.
Women have very keen senses because they could hear or see the word SALE! a thousand miles away.
A word women overuse is Whatever!
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Mickey Mouse.
Hit me back at tin_83@yahoo.com

Hey! My name is Matt.
Women are supposed to be loved because they are the essence of beauty and "sincerity."
Words women overuse are I love you; I'm fat.
If I could be with a cartoon character, I'd go for Dino.
Hit me back at jackazz_692002 @yahoo.com



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Police score another big shabu bust in Pasig City

Story on PAGE A5

ROGER MARGALLO

THE RETURN of the native as the toast of the town, Manny Pacquiao *(Story on Page A25)*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- People Power in Georgia WORLD/A10
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Kris: I still have to decide

Noynoy dismayed by sister's pick

By Marinel R. Cruz, *Entertainment* and Juliet Labog-Javellana

TELEVISION star Kris Aquino yesterday denied that she was supporting Fernando Poe Jr., Sen. Panfilo Lacson or any opposition candidate in next May's presidential polls, saying she had yet to make up her mind about whom to endorse.

"You are putting words into my mouth," Kris Aquino said of the INQUIRER report the other day that she was "definitely" supporting the opposition and was merely waiting for it to choose its standard-bearer, generally believed to be a toss-up between Poe and Lacson.

The report quoted Aquino's lawyer, Sigfrid Fortun, as saying that if Poe were not chosen, Aquino would endorse Lacson. It quoted another unnamed source as saying that she was going opposition because "*type lang niya* (she felt like it)."

The story elicited varied reactions, ranging from dismay to approval, because of the influence and stature of the 32-year-old Aquino, the youngest daughter of the martyred Benigno Aquino Jr. and the much revered former President Corazon Aquino.

A spokesperson for President Aquino told the INQUIRER yesterday that, "Kris is her own person. She makes her own decisions but she still has to consult with her brother."

Kris' older brother Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday expressed dismay at his sister's reported decision. For an intelligent and well-read person, he said he expected Kris to choose her candidate on more substantial criteria than mere friendship.

"I hope that since we share the same roots we would endorse a candidate who can continue our father's legacy," said Noynoy.

And Poe and Lacson definitely do not fit the bill, he said.

Individuals and groups pushing various interests read all sorts of meanings into the alleged decision of Kris, a very popular entertainer who is said to have inherited her father's charisma and is widely believed to be contemplating a future in politics.

Kris Aquino explained that she only met

KRIS/ A8

RUDY ESPERAS

A RARE smile touches the face of the heartbroken former Sen. Miriam Santiago as she shows off a portrait of her late son Alexander Robert to President Macapagal who visits with her on Friday night at the Christ the King chapel in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Hi-tech world still needs zeal, work ethic of snail mail man

By Volt Contreras

MODERN telecommunication technologies like e-mail and text messaging mean a lighter workload—and perhaps less need—for postal service workers like Bernardo Navarrete, 59.

The traditional snail mail of his younger years may be out of fashion, but zeal and resourcefulness at work will never go out of style for Mang Navs, as he is fondly called by fellow workers.

He always had a patience for fixing things but apparently none for red tape. So the man took matters into his own hands when operations at the Port Area depot of the Philippine Postal Corp. turned agonizingly slow for almost a year because of a breakdown in its mechanical hauling system.

"I knew it would take more months and many signatures before we could finally import replacement parts from France," he said in Filipino. "So I decided to just scrounge around for materials among our junk heaps."

He was just a driver then and was not even one of the officially designated technicians of PhilPost's Foreign Surface Mail Distribution Center (FSMDC), which is located at the Manila South Harbor. Still, Navarette took the initiative.

He worked day and night, including weekends, without overtime pay.

First, Navarrete found a discarded sprocket and, with a few modifications, fitted it into the system that runs the depot's main conveyor belt. The conveyor moves incoming letters or packages two floors up for sorting.

He also used recycled metal braces and rollers to replace the failing parts of the mail lifting machine—an elevator-like apparatus for heavier loads.

By November last year, the conveyor belt and mail lifter were running smoothly again—to the relief of his colleagues who were forced to move everything manually on carts when the giant contraptions conked out.

Later, he was told by his superiors that his improvisations saved the agency around P50,000 to P80,000 in expenditures. That's the equivalent of up to six months' salary for Navarrete.

HI-TECH/ A8

PROMISE TO A DEAD SON

Miriam: I'm done with politics

By Tina Santos and Juliet L. Javellana

"I AM removing myself from politics to fulfill my promise to him."

Former senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago told reporters Friday night that this was the wish of her son Alexander Robert. Speaking at "AR's" wake at the Christ the King chapel in Greenmeadows, Quezon City, Santiago said her "baby" had consistently objected to her political career because it gave people "the impression that I'm bad, since I'm always indulging my sense of humor."

At around 8 p.m. on Thursday, AR, who turned 22 on Oct. 2, was found with a gunshot wound in the head inside his room at the family's new home in the posh La Vista subdivision in Quezon City.

Family and friends have flocked to the wake since Friday. And though not exactly AR's favorite people, politicians have come, too, among the first being President Macapagal-Arroyo and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

AR didn't like the way politics made things "difficult" and constantly "changed" her, Santiago said. "He believed people should see the real me, my natural personality—my Ilongga side which is *malambing* (affectionate)."

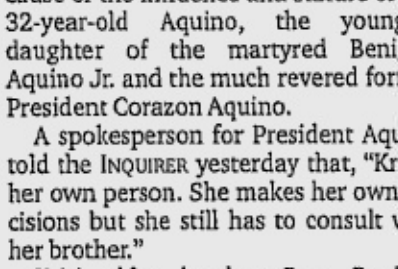
The last two and a half years that she'd been out of the public eye—after her Senate term ended in 2001 and she lost a reelection bid—brought her closer to her family, especially AR, Santiago said, and for this she was "very grateful."

It has also made it easier for her to accept AR's suicide, she said.

AR is the younger of the ex-senator's two sons by husband Narciso Santiago Jr., former interior undersecretary.

Archie, who is older than AR by 10 years, has been devastated by the incident, accord-

MIRIAM/ A8



Guyito may yet beat FPJ for president

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Fernando Poe Jr. loves to ride horses in his movies, but if he wants to be president, he had better start riding carabaos instead.

That's because a carabao named Guyito would probably garner more votes than the king of Philip-

GUYITO/ A8

Jail teaches former UP fratman courage, honor

By Margaux C. Ortiz
Metro

HIS is a story about finding courage and honor in the most hopeless of places.

Raymund Narag, 29, has come a long way since stepping out of the Quezon City jail in 2002 after seven years of incarceration.

Narag was a fraternity man accused of killing a member of a rival fraternity in 1994. Today, he works as a peace volunteer at the University of the Philippines where he is committed to helping reduce fraternity-related violence. He has written a manuscript on fraternity violence; it was published in Thailand last September.

Narag also works on a consultancy basis with the Supreme Court, sharing his knowledge about the penal system and the distressing condition of Philippine jails which he experienced first-hand. He has written several papers on the matter.

"After so many years of imprisonment, I feel like I'm an expert on the subject," Narag says, laughing.

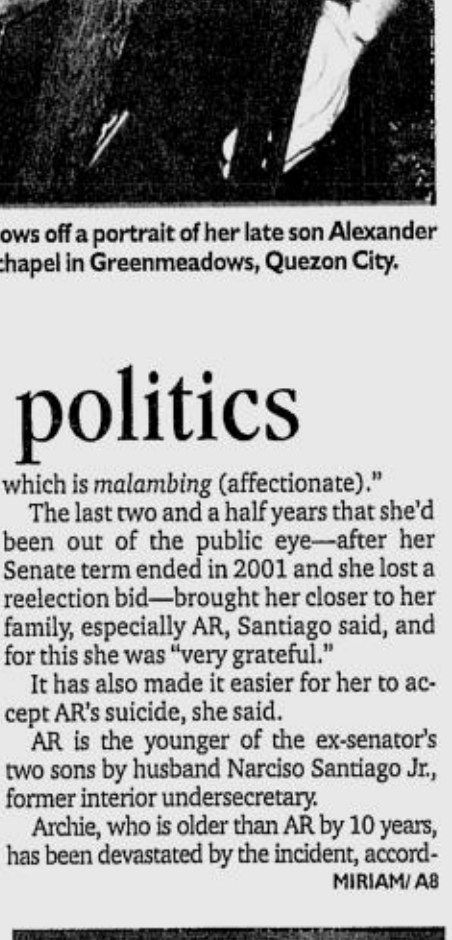
Narag and nine of his UP Scintilla Juris fraternity brothers were charged with killing their schoolmate Dennis Venturina during a frat-related attack on Venturina's Sigma Rho brods in the UP Diliman campus in December 1994. In February 2002, five of the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment, and five, including Narag, were acquitted.

When he stepped out of jail, Narag vowed to do two things: help improve the deplorable penal system which fortunately failed to destroy his humanity, and win back his girlfriend, Shella Durana, whom he considered the "love of my life."

"I remember telling reporters who interviewed me after I was freed that I was going to win Shella back," Narag said. "I knew I was being a little presumptuous, knowing that it had been quite a long time since we broke up, but I had this feeling that we were meant to be."

The couple was together for nine months after Narag was arrested in 1995. Shella, a college freshman then,

JAIL/ A9



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ACQUITTED, Raymund Narag behind bars for 7 years is now an advocate of anti-frat violence and reforms in the penal system.

GMA finds few fans among concert crowd

By Margaux Ortiz

SHE CAME, she spoke, she was booed.

The surprise guest drew jeers when she delivered brief remarks during the MTV Music Summit at the Fort open field in Taguig Friday night.

The crowd of around 60,000 according to the promoters, and made up of mostly middle and lower-class young adults, started hooting as soon as they saw President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Norman Cruz, a college student, said they could not understand why the President was there in the first place.

The free concert, promoted as a musical forum to spread awareness of AIDS among the youth, was co-sponsored by the Department of Health. Popular local artists and MTV veejays KC Montero and Sarah Meier participated, but the main featured performer was international pop star Mandy Moore.

After Moore's fourth and last song,

GMA/ A9

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains while Mindanao will ahve mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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GOV'T DESTABILIZATION IS AIM

'Abductions meant to sow fear'

By TJ Burgonio

CERTAIN groups that are out to destabilize the Macapagal administration are "orchestrating" the alarming rash of kidnappings in Metro Manila.

This assertion was made yesterday by an official involved in the government's anti-kidnapping operations in the wake of the abduction of a 10-year-old Chinese-Filipino student in Paco, Manila on Thursday and the abduction-slay of a Chinese-Filipino woman executive before that.

"There are certain groups orchestrating everything for political purposes. It's not the money they're after. The handler, if there is any, is after the political effect of the kidnapping itself," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Officials have also tagged the Waray kidnap-for-ransom gang, which was suspected of carrying out the kidnap-slay of Coca Cola executive Betti Chua Sy last week, in Thursday's abduction of the 10-year-old student.

"It's not because of the money; it's more the destabilizing effect," the official added in a phone interview, admitting they have not pinpointed any particular individual or group behind the kidnappings.

A Chinese-Filipino executive, who asked not to be named, said the possibility that the kidnappings were part of a destabilization attempt was not far-fetched.

'So easy to say'

"Some of us believe it could be part of a destabilization attempt. This belief is not confined to the Chinese-Filipino community alone," said the executive.

Teresita Ang-See of the anti-crime watchdog Citizens' Action Against Crime, however, disagreed. "They've been saying that. It's so easy to say that," she said.

"These are purely kidnap-for-ransom crimes. They (kidnappers) want money; they want to make money and hope they can get away with it," Ang-See said.

Ang-See also brushed off speculations that the kidnappings were part of a fund-raising scheme of some unscrupulous politicians for next year's national elections.

"It's illogical that politicians will raise funds from kidnap-for-ransom operations," she said, noting that this was only possible in small towns in the provinces.

Waray group

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), said that authorities believe that members of the Waray group had snatched the 10-year-old girl student.

"The area where the girl was abducted was part of the general area of operation of the gang," he said.

Three men blocked the car carrying the girl in front of her school, St. Peter the Apostle Parish and School on Quirino Avenue, at around 6:45 a.m. Thursday; shot her driver Hilario Responso and nanny Maricel de Dios when they resisted, and then snatched her.

Both Responso and De Dios were rushed to the hospital.

Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong told the Inquirer that the family of the girl had yet to coordinate with police as of yesterday.

Ang-See said the family's silence was understandable, saying "It's always like that."

A highly-placed WPD source yesterday said the police are already on the trail of the group believed responsible for the kidnapping.

Bulaong said the WPD received a tip on Friday night that the suspects' vehicle was found abandoned in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. But this turned out to be negative.

As this developed, members of the Chinese-Filipino community are coming out in full force for today's funeral of Betti Chua Sy to express outrage at the recent rash of kidnappings.

Sy will be laid to rest at the Ever Memorial Park in Valenzuela City after a short march from Funeraria Paz along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City starting at around 1 p.m. today.

Chinese-Filipino businessmen, civic group leaders, homeowners, firemen, teachers, school girls and residents, as well as anti-crime groups and her colleagues at Coca-Cola and classmates are expected to show up for the march.

"We want to show sympathy for the family and express outrage at the rash of kidnappings. We are saddened by her killing," said Joaquin Sy, whose group Kaisa is part of the anti-crime watchdog Citizens' Action Against Crime.

Show of support

"We want to give a signal to the kidnappers that their days are numbered," said Ang-See.

The march, Ang-See added, would also serve as a show of support for the police and the military, particularly Naktaf, for their campaign to flush out kidnappers.

Ang-See lauded Naktaf for the arrest of six suspects in the Sy case and the neutralization of Roberto Obeles Yap, alleged leader of the top KFR gang, and three of his cohorts in Bataan last Wednesday.

The Chinese Filipino Community Peace and Order Coordination Council yesterday called on the government to immediately act on the recent spate of kidnappings in Metro Manila.

The council, led by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. and the Filipino-Chinese General Chambers of Commerce, urged the government to vigorously pursue the masterminds of the kidnappings.

They also sought the establishment of a special court which would try kidnapping cases.

The council, through a manifesto, also asked the Supreme Court to designate an appellate division to exclusively dispose of "dilatory appeals with dispatch."

The council said the government should impose the death penalty on convicted kidnappers.

With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux Ortiz

No foreign trip for Betti's folks this year

By Edson Tandoc Jr., *Metro*

SLAIN kidnap victim Betti Chua Sy will not be able to fulfill her promise to treat her parents to a trip to Malaysia this Christmas.

Sy, who usually treated her parents to a foreign trip every Christmas, had been saving money to send them to Malaysia this year, said Rizalito Gregorio, a friend and her former professor at the University of the Philippines.

Sy was kidnapped on Monday in Quezon City. Her body was found the next day.

"[Her death] is a great loss to the country," Gregorio said in an interview.

Sy obtained her business administration degree at the UP in 1991, summa cum laude. She also topped her class when she earned her master's degree in 1997.

Gregorio, who taught Sy in five subjects, said she was his "most favorite student ever."

"Despite her achievements, she was very unassuming. I was even surprised when I learned she graduated summa. Unlike other grade-conscious students, she never asked for a high grade," he said.

They became good friends even after she graduated, he said.

He described Sy as "ever jolly and never in a bad mood."

Staff members and maintenance workers at the university were devastated by Sy's death.

Naty Barquez, the students' record evaluator, said Sy would give Christmas presents even to the school janitors.

"She was very kind and she maintained a low profile," Barquez said.

Dr. Manuel Dioquino, another professor of Sy's, described her as "brilliant, diligent and very sweet. Not only was she good at numbers, she had good insight and a keen business sense."

Since Tuesday when news of Sy's death spread, Dioquino has been asking his classes to offer a minute of silence for her.

"The entire CBA faculty feels a lot of anger and grief. There is also a lot of anxiety among our students who have started to fear for their own safety," Dioquino said.

Yesterday, the UP Alumni Association condemned the "senseless killing" of Sy.

UPAA president Jaime de los Santos said Sy's death would further erode investor confidence in the country.

In his last phone conversation with Sy in April, Gregorio asked if she could look over a paper he was preparing for a client.

"The subject was her expertise. I asked her how much she would charge, but she said she would do it for free," Gregorio said.

Gregorio still has to finish the paper. But Sy will never get to see it.

Gov't indecision hindering anti-crime drive, says Tito

THE MACAPAGAL administration's ambivalent policy toward the death penalty was getting in the way of the government's campaign against heinous crimes, Vice President Teofisto "Tito" Guingona said yesterday.

Guingona made the statement at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum in response to Sen. Robert Barber's call for government to lift the moratorium on the death penalty following the kidnap-slaying of Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy on Tuesday. Guingona and Barbers were guests at the Sulo Hotel breakfast news forum.

The Vice President said Malacañang's "urong-sulong" (indecisive) policy in the implementation of the death penalty has prevented social behavior scientists from determining through a comprehensive study whether capital punishment serves as a deterrent to crime in the Philippines.

"The government has not been able to make a consistent policy on the death penalty. It is always "urong-sulong." That is why our psychologists and criminologists have not been able to determine whether the death penalty is a deterrent to crime," Guingona said.

But Guingona expressed support for Barber's call for government to send a strong message to organized crime groups. Barbers, a former policeman, said the execution of death convicts could be that strong message.

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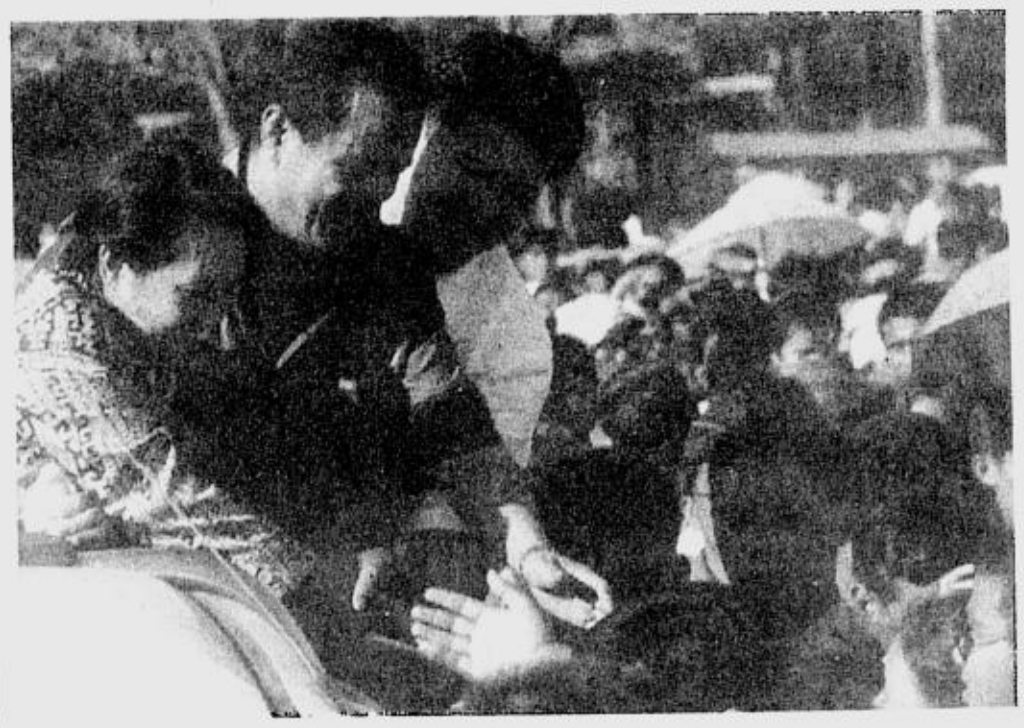

WARM WELCOME
She's not on the campaign trail she has insisted but yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo received a warm welcome in Sultan Kudarat where she flew to participate in the province's celebration of its 30th founding anniversary. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Joe Burgos laid to rest in farm that he loved

By Fe Zamora, *Inq7.net*

TARTARO, San Miguel, Bulacan—Jose G. Burgos Jr., the crusading journalist who made his name fighting the Marcos dictatorship, was buried at his farm yesterday with family, friends and media colleagues conveying him to his final resting place—a small hill ringed with gemelina trees that he himself had planted.

Burgos was at home in this "kingdom," a leafy 12-hectare organic farm "away from the madding crowd."

His widow Edith said that in the last four months of his life, Burgos spent his days gazing at the trees, the ricefields, at everything that he had planted, Louie Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" playing in the background.

"The journey continues" was the theme of a commercial Burgos had wanted made for the Journal publications group which he briefly headed in 1998. The 30-second commercial was filmed in his farm at his insistence.

Burgos was adamant: if he were to leave an image of himself, it was not just as a journalist but also as a man of words who found peace tilling the earth.

"If anyone of you had any trouble with Dad, and if he had any problem with you, you can rest assured that all is forgiven. My father only planted trees, never bad feelings," said his son Jay-L.

"I believe then that Joe is still here: a free spirit, where he longed to be, wafting in the wind, infusing the very air we breathe," said his friend, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Fellow campaigners in the anti-Marcos movement gathered at the chapel to pay their last respects to a respected colleague.

"Joe is a journalist of the people who carried a life of freedom," said a colleague from the 1960s, Rep. Satur Ocampo.

"Joe was a great man," said Lourdes "Chuchay" Fernandez, editor in chief of Today and the first woman editor in chief of Malaya, the newspaper that Burgos founded.

Burgos is survived by his wife, Edith, their five children and six grandchildren, and friends for whom Joe served as the "light" during the dark days of the dictatorship.

'Gov't must assure investors after Camacho fallout'

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday warned of the peso's expected volatility in the coming days unless investors are assured that the government's economic and fiscal agenda would remain on track despite the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

"We will continue to experience some more volatility in the coming days but it should eventually subside once investors are convinced that government remains serious in its economic and fiscal program, especially in managing the budget deficit," Buenaventura said.

Camacho's sudden resignation last Friday, allegedly due to Malacañang's intransigence in keeping Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia, spooked the market and sent the peso tumbling to a new record low of P55.585 to the dollar.

Spreads on Philippine dollar bonds also surged as investors were worried over the government's ability to manage its budget deficit without Camacho.

Camacho's abrupt departure raised concerns that his reforms would not be continued.

Assurance

But President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured the public that economic reforms would continue.

Speaking at a political forum at the Ateneo de Manila University, Ms Macapagal said her government would continue reforms aimed at keeping the budget deficit and inflation under control.

Camacho, a respected banker, was credited with having kept the budget deficit under control this year after it exceeded official ceilings last year, alarming international creditors.

According to Buenaventura, keeping the economic team intact was very crucial at this point, especially amid concerns that the budget deficit could be easily breached during an election period.

Buenaventura said he would complete his six-year term which ends in July 2005.

Investors fear that a new wave of resignations could cripple the country's economic team after rumors that Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin would also resign began circulating on Friday. But Boncodin denied the rumor. "It is not true."

"Emmie Boncodin is very crucial also because of her strong credibility to the market like Lito (Camacho). So is (Guillermo) Willy Parayno (commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue). I really hope Lito's resignation would be the last although (National Treasurer Sergio) Boy Edeza has been vocal about his plans for a long time," Buenvantura said.

Redouble efforts

Edeza said he would leave by January while Parayno said he was staying for the meantime.

Buenaventura said the President must double her efforts in helping restore confidence and credibility in the financial markets.

"The President must assure investors that the people Camacho left behind could still do the job," added the BSP chief.

Buenaventura said the appointment of Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong as officer-in-charge of the DOF should be viewed positively.

"Nitz may not be very popular to the market but all it would take is to convince investors that she is not at the DOF to do the bidding of Malacañang. Credible finance and budget officials are important, especially during an election period where there could be concerns on overspending which could hurt the fiscal target and, consequently, erode investors' confidence," Buenaventura said.

He said Camacho informed him of his plan to resign Thursday night.

As early as June

"I knew he wanted to resign as early as June but I thought he would finish the year," said the BSP chief.

Camacho vaguely cited frustrations in his job but refused to comment on his conflict with the Palace over Garcia.

"I didn't have anything to do with his resignation," said Garcia, a scion of one of the more influential political clans in Cebu.

Camacho had recommended the dismissal of Garcia for alleged mismanagement and corruption but he was ignored by Malacañang.

Malacañang yesterday allayed the fears of the business community over Camacho's resignation, saying its effect on the peso and business confidence was temporary.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the fall of the peso to its lowest level in reaction to Camacho's resignation showed how much the local and international financial community respected Camacho.

Meanwhile, Lakas Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers yesterday said that Camacho was a victim of destructive politics.

"Camacho will be a great loss. He was a victim of venomous politics," Barbers said. ***With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana, AFP***

Soldiers free 5 coco farmers seized by Abus

By Julie S. Alipala and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and TJ Burgonio

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Special Forces soldiers on Friday rescued five coconut farmers seized earlier by Abu Sayyaf bandits after a fire fight in the jungles of Isabela City in Basilan.

Three soldiers were wounded and two of the abductors were killed or hurt during the exchange of fire, according to the military.

Sgt. Isidro Labiano Jr., Cpl. Reynaldo Corpus and Pvt. Noel Tuldog sustained shrapnel wounds from the M-203 grenades fired by the bandits led by Abu Sayyaf commander Hamsiraji Sali, alias Jose Ramirez., said Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, Army spokesperson.

The wounded soldiers belonged to the Army's Special Forces Co. who rescued hostages Kulong Lasal, Ampolo Lasal, Ruzana Lasal, Ali Akiran and one Jamil after a 30-minute clash, he said.

"The hostages were unharmed," Kakilala said of the five, who were abducted in their homes in Km 11, Barangay Lumbang, Isabela City at around 10 p.m. Thursday.

"We immediately pursued them. Using visual tracking, the Special Forces caught up with them in Hill 400, Upper Kapayawan, where a 30-minute fire fight ensued," Brig. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade based in Basilan, said.

The bandits withdrew toward the southeast following the encounter, leaving behind their hostages, Ramos said. He added that the Special Forces Co., beefed up by soldiers from the Army's 10th Infantry Battalion, pursued the Abu Sayyaf.

Top Abu Sayyaf leader Sali, identified as having been involved in the Sipadan and Dos Palmas hostage crises, is listed in the United States military's order of battle and is known to command some 40 bandits on Basilan island. The US government has placed a $5-million bounty for his capture or death.

"The farmers were harvesting coconuts when Sali spotted them. He took them by force and at gunpoint ordered them to produce food and cash," Ramos said.

DFA exec to look into OFWs' plight in Kuwait after rape

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has sent one of his top deputies to Kuwait to "seriously assess" the situation of overseas Filipino workers in that country following the recent spate of rape incidents involving Filipinas.

In a statement, Ople said he has directed DFA Undersecretary Rafael Seguis to immediately fly to Kuwait and work with Philippine Embassy officials there as well as Kuwaiti authorities to bring the rapists of four Filipinas to justice.

He said he also instructed Seguis to investigate if Filipino embassy officials there acted swiftly on the case of the four Filipinas and extended every assistance to them.

Based on reports from the Philippine Embassy, a Filipina was raped by three Kuwaiti policemen on Nov. 14. The victim is currently under the care of the Filipino Women's Resource Center in the Philippine Embassy. In a separate and much earlier incident, two Filipinas were abducted and raped by men armed with knives.

"Cases have been filed in court against the perpetrators of these sexual crimes. We respect the decision of the victims to keep their identities and the details of the crimes private," Ople said.

On Wednesday, Ople summoned the Kuwaiti charge d' affaires in Manila to personally convey the Philippine government's "deep concern" over the cases.

"I received his assurance that his government will promptly look into these cases," Ople said.

He said the DFA is closely coordinating with the Department of Labor and Employment in extending assistance to the rape victims and ensuring the general welfare of OFWs in Kuwait.

"The Philippine government is fully committed to the pursuit of justice on behalf of the victims of these heinous crimes," Ople said.

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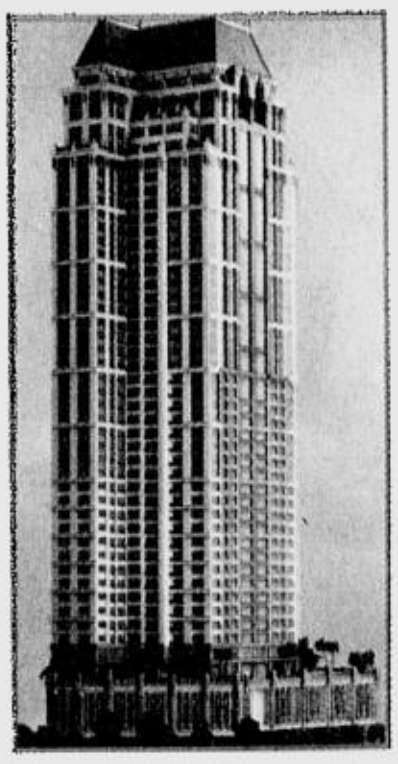

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After 1 child, priest's fitness for celibate life to be studied

By Martin P. Marfil

THE OUTGOING president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday clarified that any priest who fathers a child may still be kicked out of the priesthood.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, outgoing CBCP head, issued the clarification in the wake of reports that priests found to have fathered one child would only be suspended, while those who sired a second child would be expelled.

According to Quevedo, cases of priests who sired a child would depend on the priest's fitness to live a celibate life.

"If the incapacity for celibate life clearly emerges, Canon Law provisions regarding the loss of the clerical state can be applied," he said in a letter.

Under the guidelines issued by Catholic bishops on "Clerical sexual misconduct in heterosexual relationships," fathering a child by a cleric is an occasion to determine whether he is fit for celibacy.

This would mean he would be suspended, investigated and must undergo "rigorous human and spiritual assessment" to help him and his bishop to determine his suitability for the celibate state.

"If the incapacity for a celibate life clearly emerges, the bishop or superior must firmly advise the cleric to request for dispensation from clerical duties," the guidelines said.

"If he refuses, the bishop or the superior can apply the norms of sanction provided by Canon Law with regard to the loss of the clerical state. The diocese or religious institute will also provide the necessary help to the cleric as he faces his new state of life," it added.

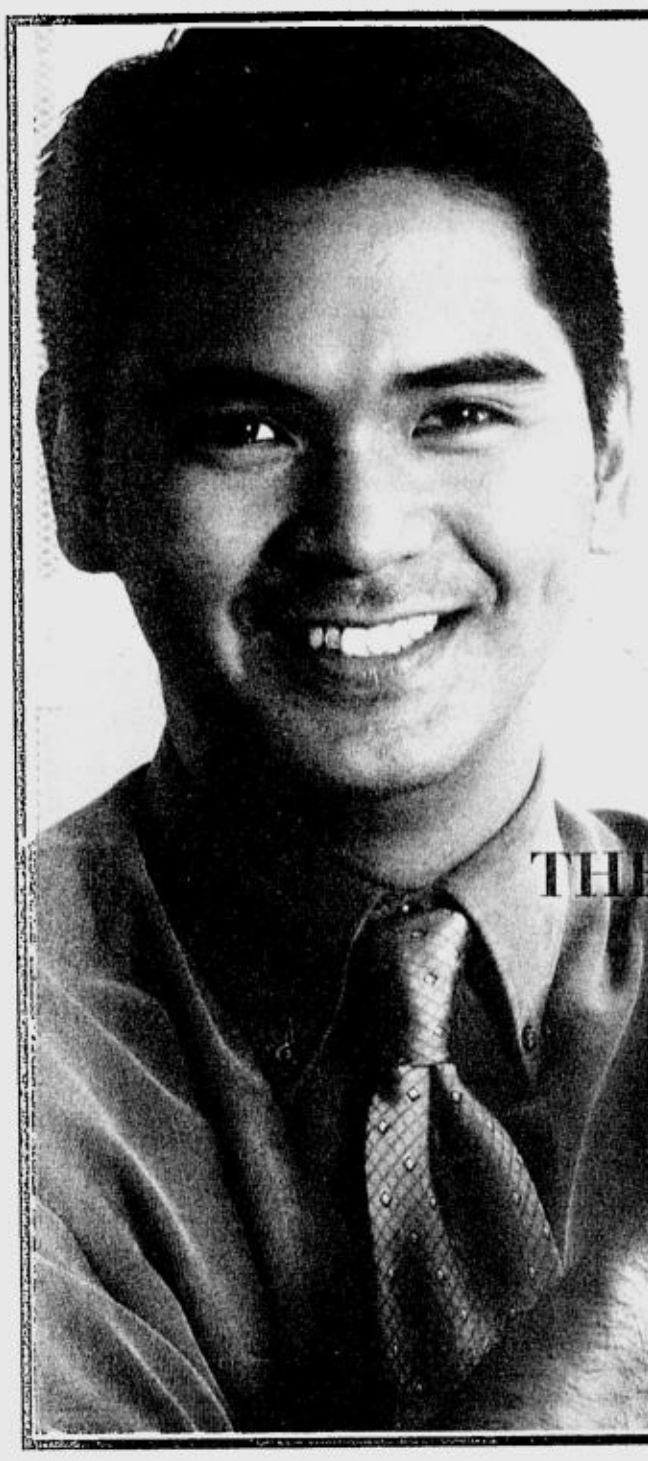
A "priest-father" who is allowed to remain in the ministry must continue undergoing a prescribed program of renewal and measures to remain faithful must be taken.

This, the guidelines said, includes his contact with the mother and child.

"Financial support by the 'priest-father' for the child should be channeled through a third party," the bishops ruled.

The bishops also discussed guidelines on how to handle scandals involving "priest-fathers."

Under the guidelines, a priest-father who is allowed to remain in the ministry must not work where the scandal he had caused is publicly known.



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377,500	31,458	21,604	17,287	12,366	9,978
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Cops score second big shabu bust in one day

By Luige del Puerto

FOLLOWING the raid on the country's biggest and most sophisticated shabu manufacturing facility in Antipolo City early on Friday, authorities swooped down on a Pasig City warehouse and seized drug-making chemicals worth about P100 million.

Police Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay said the chemicals turned out to be the single biggest seizure of drug-making ingredients in the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

The Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force raided the Manila Mahogany Marketing Corp. warehouse located on MRR Road, Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City at around 4 p.m. Friday.

The warehouse yielded 24.7 kilos of shabu worth an estimated P49.4 million, 24.2 kilos of ephedrine—an ingredient in shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride—and equipment used to make the drug.

The equipment had been dismantled, according to Aglipay.

"What is important is that the equipment, once put back together, could produce almost the same number of kilos as the one in Antipolo City," he told the INQUIRER.

The Antipolo drug facility was capable of producing 500 kilos of shabu, police officials said.

Three Chinese nationals were arrested during the second raid. Aglipay identified them as Yu An Ni, a woman, and two men named Jimmy Lem and Li Go Ming, all from Fujian, China.

Aglipay said they belonged to the group—four Chinese and a Filipino—who were arrested earlier in Antipolo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the Pasig drug lab with Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Pasig Mayor Soledad Eusebio.

"She's very, very happy that her instructions are being carried out excellently by law enforcement agencies," said Lina of the President.

Aglipay said the police would also file appropriate charges against the owners of the raided warehouses. *With AFP*

GETTING to be a habit. Police on Friday raided two large shabu labs in Metro Manila, with the second one, in Pasig City, getting the customary visit from President Macapagal. To her right are Deputy Director General Aglipay and Secretary Lina. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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More officials of 3 gov't agencies fail lifestyle check

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman will file graft charges against a third batch of government officials who failed the government's lifestyle check late this month.

Ombudsman spokesperson Ernesto Nocos said the officials also face the prospect of losing their ill-gotten assets.

"As soon as graft charges are filed in appropriate courts, we will start forfeiture proceedings against them," Nocos told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The Ombudsman is readying charges against several officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue who failed the lifestyle check.

The two batches of officials earlier charged with graft also belonged to these three agencies, which are considered the most corrupt in the government.

Presidential Anti-Graft Commission member Teresita Baltazar earlier said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the creation of "integrity committees" in all agencies of the government to expand the coverage of the lifestyle check program which at present is concentrated in the DPWH, BIR and BOC.

"The President is ordering all agencies to set up integrity committees to conduct lifestyle checks and make it easier for us to go after grafters," said Baltazar, who works closely with the Transparency Group which is spearheading the campaign to stop graft in government.

She said the integrity committees will help identify potential grafters in each department, do the case build-up and submit their findings to the PAGC or the Office of the Ombudsman.

"The fight against corruption can now really take off," she said, but noted that at present, the PAGC and the Ombudsman are short of the manpower needed to mount a strong fight against graft. *Armand N. Nocum*

SC denies Erap lawyer's plea

THE SUPREME Court has denied with finality the motion of former President Joseph Estrada's personal lawyer and co-accused, Edward Serapio, asking the tribunal to reverse its decision ordering the Sandiganbayan to set aside the July 10, 2001 arraignment of Serapio, thus paving the way for his re-arraignment for plunder.

The high court said it found no merit in Serapio's contention that he did not question in his petition the validity of his arraignment.

"When (Serapio) filed a motion to quash (the case before the Sandiganbayan) and ultimately questioned its denial before the court, he thereby questioned the validity of his arraignment. This is bolstered by the fact that the petitioner himself, during his arraignment, refused to enter a plea, prompting the Sandiganbayan to enter a plea of not guilty for him," the SC said.

Serapio is also accused of plunder for his involvement in setting up the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, an alleged dummy foundation, into whose account Estrada allegedly deposited hundreds of millions of pesos in "jueteng" collections from gambling lords.

The court said that there is no bar for Serapio to be arraigned again since after his re-arraignment, the parties in the case may simply manifest that they are adopting the evidence adduced by them after his first arraignment.

Serapio, who was granted P500,000 bail by the Sandiganbayan in September, had asked the SC to affirm his first arraignment since doing otherwise would put him in a "much worse situation."

He noted that with his re-arraignment, the prosecution was given a new opportunity to amend the information filed against him but not against his co-accused. Serapio said that this undermined his right against double jeopardy. *Philip Tubeza*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 23, 2003
Christ the King

1st Reading: Dn 7:13-14

I continued watching the nocturnal vision:

One like a son of man came on the clouds of heaven. He faced the One of Great Age and was brought into his presence.

Dominion, honor and kingship were given him, and all the people and nations of every language served him. His dominion is eternal and shall never pass away; his kingdom will never be destroyed.

2nd Reading: Rev 1:5-8

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has washed away our sins with his own blood, making us a kingdom and priests for God his Father,

to him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

See he comes with the clouds and everyone will see him, even those who pierced him; on his account all the nations of the earth will beat his breast. Yes. It will be so.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, he who is, who was and who is to come: the Master of the universe.

Gospel: Jn 18:33-37

Pilate then entered the court again, called Jesus and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Does this word come from you, or did you hear it from others?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingship does not come from this world. If I were king like those of this world, my guards would have fought to save me from being handed over to the Jews. But my kingship is not from here."

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" And Jesus answered, "Just as you say, I am a king. For this I was born and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth hears my voice."

Commentary

"Just as you say, I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth." A professor of mine has this to say on the kingship of Jesus: "He is king by birth and origin, being the very Son of God. But his power is based on self-sacrificial love. Consequently this king has no armies, no political party, no propaganda machine, no police, no courts and no prison. His only weapon is truth, that is, the revelation of what God is, a loving Father to those who are interested in the truth." Are we to accept the kingship of Jesus? Each one has to make this important decision.

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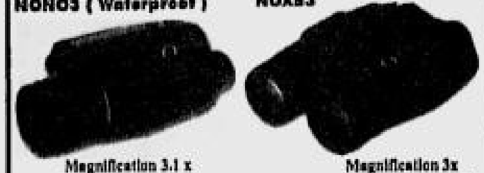
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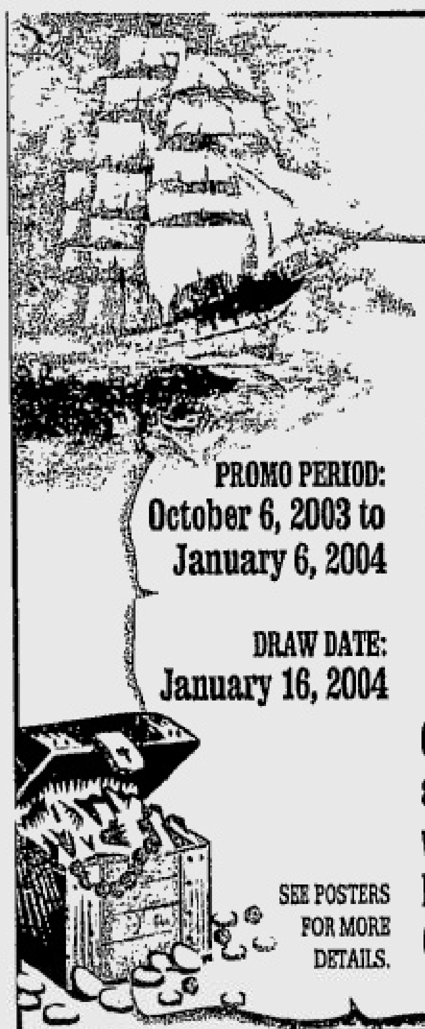
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I just want my money back, says woman who sued Rocos

By Armand Nocum

A BOOK publisher who accused relatives of former Education Secretary Raul Roco of extorting P2.885 million from her the other day complained about how the controversy had turned into a political issue when all she wanted was to get her money back.

Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio Roco, one of the former secretary's two brothers who were implicated in the mess, said he saw "Malacañang's hand" in efforts to exploit the issue in order to discredit their brother Raul, who has declared his intention to run for President next year.

"I am the aggrieved party here. I even suffered a miscarriage traveling from Metro Manila to Bicol and Camarines Sur in order to collect the money taken from me and my family," said Maria Rowena Sambeli-Enesio, general manager of White Orchids Printing and Publishing House Inc.

In July, Enesio filed before the Ombudsman charges against Sulpicio and Ramon Roco, regional director of the Land Transportation Office in Naga City, and Calabanga, Camarines Sur Vice Mayor Ramoncito Roco Robles, their nephew, for allegedly extorting money from her in exchange for multi-million-peso contracts with the Department of Education.

Denial

Enesio called up the INQUIRER to deny reports that the filing of the case was politically motivated.

"I could have filed the case earlier. The media could have known about this about two years ago. But I opted to suffer in silence while chasing the Rocos all over town for almost two years so they will return the money to me and my family," Enesio said in a telephone interview.

She said she started going after the Rocos in February last year after realizing that she would never get the DepEd contract.

By the time she filed the case in July, she said Ramon Roco only managed to return P600,000 to her.

"What was I to do? That was the reason I went to court. It was a good move," she said, explaining that it was then that the Rocos forked over a bigger sum.

In his Oct. 29 affidavit, Robles admitted that allegedly upon orders of Raul, Sulpicio and Ramon, he returned P1,684,000 to Enesio four months after she filed the case.

But he said he did not have the P600,000 still owed to Enesio and "Raul, Sulpicio and Ramon have refused and failed to advance the same."

Efforts

"I only want to get back the money owed me. There is no politics here. This issue is not about politics, this is about one family's efforts to get money owed it," she said.

She clarified that although it was Robles who allegedly received received the extorted money, it was Ramon and Sulpicio who called her up to negotiate its release.

But in a telephone interview, Sulpicio Roco denied this, saying he did not even know Enesio. He said anybody could have called Enesio and pretended to be a Roco.

He said he found it ironic that he was being persecuted for "not condoning a crime," a textbook deal which Secretary Roco disapproved.

He said the issue was related to Raul Roco's presidential bid.

"I can clearly see Malacañang's hand in this issue," he said, noting that in Bicol, copies of Enesio's affidavit were being circulated by a presidential adviser of President Macapagal."

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Kris: I still have to decide

From page A1

with Lacson on Thursday "to get to know him" and help her make up her mind about which candidate to endorse.

She said she did so upon the request of Fortun, who is also lawyering for Lacson in the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case that was recently dismissed.

"He said I have to get to know everybody before I decide who to endorse," said Kris, who met with Lacson for more than three hours at a Makati Shangri-La hotel restaurant on Thursday night.

Aquino stressed that whichever candidate she endorses would not necessarily be the same one that her mother supports.

"I am being very careful in making a decision," said Aquino in a telephone interview.

"I know my responsibility. I have to be very careful because I might create a wrong impression," she said.

Not package deal

She pointed out that she would make her decision independently of her mother.

"I am not a package deal with my Mom," she said.

Noynoy, a ranking member of his father's Liberal Party, said he expected Kris to consult with their mother and other members of the family before wading into the political fray.

He said she should consult those members of the family "who are more experienced in politics, who are more in it."

The congressman said there was "no way" he would support Lacson because of the many issues surrounding his record as a police officer.

He noted that the police task force that Lacson headed during the Estrada administration was frequently summoned to the House human rights committee investigations.

Violent reaction

He said Kris recently asked the family: "What do you think of Ping [Lacson]?" and elicited a "violent reaction."

He also listed Poe and his mother's own cousin, businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, as among those he would not support.

He himself was still undecided on whom to endorse but said the LP was choosing from among the President, former education secretary Raul Roco, Poe and even Sen. Noli de Castro.

He said President Aquino has told the presidential aspirants that she wanted to be above partisan politics and would not endorse anyone in 2004.

The controversial Kris, who co-hosts the TV show "Morning Girls with Kris and Korina" has lately been very voluble about her choice of candidates to vote for in the 2004 electoral race.

Earlier, she expressed a desire to run for the Senate in 2007 when she becomes eligible. She is now too young to qualify to run in 2004.

Open to all parties

During the Wednesday telecast of the show, she said she would vote for Sen. Robert Barbers "because I like him" and for Heherson Alvarez "because my Mom likes him."

Kris said she would also vote for Interior Secretary Jose Lina who is running for senator.

She said she is open to all political parties, even the ruling Lakas-CMD party "because (Housing Secretary) Mike Defensor is my friend."

At the same time she said she has "a very good relationship" with Poe and his wife, Susan, whom she addresses as "Tita" (Auntie).

"He's a great man and I look up to him. Tita Susan and I got really close on the set of 'Mano Po 2'," she said.

She indicated she had some knowledge of Poe's likely decision on whether to enter the 2004 contest but said she was "not allowed to disclose" any information at present.

Aquino won two best supporting awards for her acting in the first "Mano Po." The movie's sequel is Regal Film's official entry to the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

Palace respects choice

Malacañang yesterday said it would "respect" Kris Aquino's choice, but said Kris' stance may not necessarily be shared by other members of her family.

"In a family, it's possible that the members have different opinions. So we respect the opinion expressed by Kris," Ignacio Bunye, the presidential spokesperson, told RMN radio.

At least one Aquino family member supported Kris Aquino's reported decision. Opposition Rep. Agapito "Biutz" Aquino said Kris' support was welcome and "good news".

"It means that we Aquinos would be one," said the secretary general of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and a firm supporter of Lacson.

Butz Aquino said that with Kris' reported defection, only one Aquino family member, Noynoy, remains loyal to the administration party. His sister, Sen. Tessie Oreta, is also an LDP member.

He said he would talk to Noynoy and convince him to make the switch.

"I think Kris believes in transformation in our politics. Senator Lacson offers this kind of transformation in our system," he said from Vigan where he was interviewed with Lacson.

Lacson also welcomed Kris' alleged endorsement. "Any endorsement from any celebrity is a boost to anybody's candidacy," he said.

Militant groups

Militant groups said Aquino's endorsement of the political opposition highlighted how unpopular the President has become.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said Aquino's endorsement may actually be "indicative" of her own mother's "pull-out of support" from Ms Macapagal.

"It's not likely that Kris will be once more going against the wishes of her mother so soon after they had come to terms over Kris' controversial personal life involving comedian and Parañaque mayor Joey Marquez," he said.

But fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, while welcoming Kris Aquino's alleged junking of Ms Macapagal, said her endorsement of either Poe or Lacson based on "personal thrills" was " a direct affront to millions of thinking and decent people in this country".

Supporters of Poe expressed elation at Kris Aquino's reported endorsement of their idol.

"We welcome anybody in the bandwagon, and I'm sure people will listen to her because she's popular," said FPJ Movement president Jules Raboca.

Raboca said that Poe was Kris' first choice, claiming that as early as February or March this year, Kris had declared in one of her tv shows that she would back Poe "even if it would upset [her] mother". *With reports from Volt Contreras and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MR.FIX-IT, Bernardo Navarrete, at the main conveyor belt which he repaired to move incoming letters two floors up for sorting. But there's no longer enough mail to move due to competition from e-mail, SMS, private courier companies and other paperless technologies.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Hi-tech world still needs zeal . . .

From page A1

"See? I did all that out of scraps that were headed for the junk shops," Mang Navs said as he proudly pointed out his work to the INQUIRER.

Navarrete's reputation as the heroic handyman of his workplace recently earned him the Dangal ng Bayan Award from the Civil Service Commission. The honors made this father of six P100,000 richer. That's more money than he saved at the post office.

Promotion

From being a driver, he was also promoted to a post that better suited his talents: heavy equipment operator.

"He epitomizes public service at its best, doing tasks beyond the call of duty," the CSC citation on Navarrete read.

"You would wish that every government office had at least 10 Mang Navs, that sort of people multinational companies want to pirate," said FSMDC's acting manager Romeo Montes. "What he does is something difficult for anyone who is selfish and who does not love his work."

An Army corporal in the '60s before he got married, Navarrete has been with the PhilPost since 1978. Much of his knack for tinkering with gadgets is self-taught, although he also took automotive repair courses at the Araullo Evening Vocational School.

Self-taught

"I guess part of it comes from my years in the Army," he said, when asked how he had cultivated such a work ethic rarely found in the bureaucracy. Not surprisingly, the man who's handy with tools is not as deft with words.

While the CSC award cited him only for his ingenuity with the hauling machines, Navarrete has done much more, to the gratitude of his peers. He has fixed their lockers, vehicles—and even the dilapidated elevator in the office—usually during his break and all without pay.

And to the further amazement of his co-workers, this tireless volunteer still finds the energy to turn unpaved portions of the depot into mini-vegetable gardens. With management's permission, he is personally tending to small plots planted to malungay, sweet potatoes, papaya and okra. Again, he shares the produce with fellow employees.

Not much mail

Sadly for Mang Navs, though, the giant machines he brought back to life were not in use when the INQUIRER saw him the day he was interviewed, simply because there wasn't much mail to move. An odd thing, considering it's already November and Christmas is fast approaching, Navarrete said.

Montes said that since 2000, there has been a steady drop in the volume of mail PhilPost has been processing. With people's increasing reliance on e-mail and other paper-less technologies, the few remaining materials being mailed in bulk these days are non-personal communication like product promos, catalogs and bills sent by companies.

Competition

PhilPost itself has also been facing stiff competition for market share from private courier firms now operating in the country, he said.

So is Mang Nav's niche in the workplace under threat?

"I don't think so," his boss said. "A worker like him is needed anywhere."

Guyito may yet beat FPJ for president

From page A1

pine movies, if both of them are running for president next year.

Guyito happens to be the mascot of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and its online version, INQ7.net, which conducted an informal survey yesterday during the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress here.

Out of the 2,420 people who "voted" at the INQUIRER and INQ7.net booth at Camp John Hay-CAP Convention Center, Poe got 150 votes or 6.2 percent while Guyito got 187 votes or 7.7 percent.

Comedian Rex Navarette, the other "dark horse" in the INQ7.net's presidential survey and the featured entertainer in the INQUIRER-sponsored luncheon yesterday, got 117 votes or 4.8 percent.

Former Education Secretary Raul Roco topped the mock polls with 1,035 votes or 43.6 percent of the votes cast, followed by President Macapagal-Arroyo who got 674 votes or 27.9 percent.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the other politician who has so far declared his intention of running for president, garnered 237 votes or 9.8 percent.

Fortunately for Poe and Lacson, the voting was not scientifically accurate, said Paolo Prieto, president of INQ7.net, the 11th most visited news website in the world.

Prieto said that apart from advertising executives and congress delegates, students also voted at the booth.

Navarette, who entertained the luncheon audience, poked fun at Philippine elections, saying only in the country can the dead vote.

"How do they know who they are voting for? Through the ouija board?" he asked, referring to the popular seance board game.

Youth vote

Roco, who was in Baguio City on Saturday for the regional consultation of his party Aksyon Demokratiko, said he was glad the ad congress votes were dominated by "the youth votes."

"You can always trust the youth," he told the INQUIRER over the telephone.

He said every convention he had attended during his organizational tours in the Visayas and Davao City revealed a strong support from the youth.

"You must remember that 72 percent of the population is under 30 years old," he said. "We are banking on them." *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Miriam: I'm done with politics

From page A1

ing to their mother. "They were very close," she said.

At the wake Santiago also talked with AR's classmates at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he was a law freshman, describing him as "a perfect son any mother would wish to have."

AR was an "illimitable source of comfort" especially when she underwent "the usual grind of black propaganda and name-calling," she said. "If I were asked to manufacture a child according to my specifications, the result would have been AR. We were really joined at the hip."

'Hot Babe'

She had only happy times with AR, she said, up till the end: "Every night when he came home from school, he would enter my room, and give me a snappy greeting like, 'Yo, woman!' or 'How's my hot babe?' We would talk about his day in school, his classmates ... he would kiss and hug me, he was so *malambing*."

Even in public, she said, they would hold hands. "He was never embarrassed. People at the market or the mall envied us. We were like a love team, they teased us, because I would hug and kiss him in front of many people."

Like any young man, AR dated, his mother recalled. He once consulted her about making a choice between a girl who lived nearby and another whom he had to make a long detour to fetch.

"I told him it depends, if her value exceeds the amount of gasoline," she laughed.

Santiago was sure he had placed her "above everything else." He would drop everything when she needed company, even to go shopping, Miriam said.

How they talked

Best of all, she said, they talked. "Oh, how he loved discussion. So he was a child after my own heart. Not everyone wants to discuss philosophy, or Marx versus Hagel ... but he enjoyed that kind of thing. My husband would sometimes complain at the dinner table, saying, 'Go ahead, just talk between the two of you since you ... don't care whether other people understand you or not.'"

Among her last discussions with AR, Santiago said, was about turning over her law firm to him when she retired.

Goodbye, mom

The grief that the feisty lawyer and former public official almost succeeded in hiding surfaced when she recounted AR's last few days and their last encounter.

The night before her son took his own life, she recalled, he came into her room looking as if he wanted to say something.

"He did not say it, but I could see it in his eyes," she said. "I saw that he was very tired and I tried to raise his spirits. Instead of kissing me goodnight, he asked me to sit up. I did, and he gave me a very, very tight hug and then said, 'Goodbye mom.' I let that slip ... and that's the last I saw of him."

The following morning, there wasn't the usual sign on his door asking her to wake him up. "He would stick it up on his door with a piece of gum," she recalled, unable to resist a chuckle. And then in the afternoon, at 4 o'clock apparently, he got his father's gun and shot himself in the head."

Because workers had been drilling iron bars onto her windows, she said, the maids did not hear the gunshot. "My husband and I came home after five. We assumed our son was in school and the maids did not tell us (that he never left the house). At 7 p.m., the maids went to call him to dinner. That's when they found him."

Hope never dies

When her husband insisted that she "stay away," Santiago said, she knew it was bad. So she forced herself through AR's door. "He was lying face down in a pool of his own blood and his face was gray. I knew my son was dead, but still I hoped ... hope never dies in a mother's breast."

Archie carried his brother while their father took the wheel and sped off to the East Avenue Medical Center. Santiago was left at home. When her husband called later, he instructed her to "fortify" herself.

In denial

She recounted: "I asked, 'Is AR dead?' He said, 'We'll continue to try to revive him.' But I knew it was more of a wish. The whole night I couldn't cry at all. I was in denial, I couldn't accept that he was dead. In the morning, that was when I started to cry." When she finally saw AR inside a coffin on Friday morning, she broke down altogether.

Santiago was certain that AR killed himself because he had received a failing mark in constitutional law. "He took it hard because of me," she said, eyes misting over. She is an acknowledged expert on the subject.

But the young man's anxiety could also have built up from the time that he was denied admission to the University of the Philippines College of Law prior to his enrollment in Ateneo, his mother said.

Cruel questions

AR had passed the UP entrance test but failed the oral exam, during which Santiago said her son was asked "cruel" questions.

"He was asked what he thought about the charge of her mother's insanity and how much his father bet on cockfights," she said, shaking her head. "Apparently they (panel interviewers) were no fans of mine."

AR lost confidence in himself and the system as a result, Santiago said. "He had that in his heart, like a big heavy rock."

In his first semester at Ateneo, AR failed the subject of persons and family relations. Santiago said they protested this, but "did not even get the courtesy of a reply." Soon after, he told her he was worried about his grade in constitutional law. "He was afraid that if he had two flunking grades, he might be kicked out. Dean (Joaquin) Bernas (said that) was not the case. But for a person who had been on the dean's list and passed two written exams, I think AR found it unacceptable to flunk twice in a row."

Layers of humiliation

She learned later from AR's classmates that the grades were released in the afternoon of that day she last saw him. They also told her that among those who failed, he took it the hardest. "It was actually layer upon layer of frustration and humiliation that reached an inevitable peak," she said of her son's extreme reaction.

The Santiagos also have adopted twin daughters, Megan and Molly. Without AR, whom she had also called "Toto" or "Hunk," the ex-senator said, the family will never be the same, and the coming holidays "would definitely be a lot different."

Just turning the corner

She did not feel guilty about AR's suicide, Santiago said. "But for a moment, I had a very strong sense of self-hate. I have an accomplished student record, and maybe my children (thought) they were expected to match this—if not by me, then by society. Sometimes I also look at my professional career as a curse on my children."

Right now, she said, she was thankful to God for having brought her "so much love" through AR: "There will be a lot of pain because it will take maybe 10, 20 years before I see my son again. But at his level of existence, there is a certain philosophical view that he will not suffer even if we are separated because at that level, time moves at a different pace and his expectation will be that I will be there in a minute, I'm just turning the corner."

Until then, she will take it slow. "I used to have fire in my belly," she sighed. "But now I am numb."

"LOVE of my life," Raymund Narag calls Shella Durana whom he married early this year. In 1996, he had set her free not to tie her down to the miserable life of a jailbird.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Jail teaches former UP fratman courage

From page A1

faithfully visited Narag at the jail against her mother's wishes.

He set her free

Narag, however, decided to break up with her in 1996 after the judge who had earlier handled the case denied his petition for bail.

"I lost all hope then, (Shella) was young and I did not want her to be as miserable as I was so I decided to set her free," Narag said.

They remained friends, however, and a few months after he was released from jail, Narag won Shella back.

"I had a few boyfriends after Raymund and I parted ways, but I always knew at the back of my mind that he was the one for me," Shella said.

Marriage

They got married earlier this year.

"This might sound trite, but it's true: our memories together kept me alive during the long time I was in prison," Narag said.

Shella, now a trade and industry analyst in Cotabato City, was with her husband during the INQUIRER interview. They held hands as they recounted their relationship.

Scholar, cum laude

Before he was jailed, Narag graduated cum laude with a degree in public administration.

This semester, he is due to finish his master's in public administration studies. He is a UP presidential and National College of Public Administration scholar and is applying for a scholarship for further studies abroad.

"I feel that I've been deprived of an education for so long, I just want to devour knowledge like there is no tomorrow," Narag said.

Valuable lessons

But Narag was quick to stress that he learned the most valuable lessons in life behind bars.

"There was a time when I actually enjoyed being in jail and being with the inmates because I felt I was of great use there," Narag said, grinning.

"Jail taught me everything there is to know about honor, courage and hope," he added on a more serious note.

Because Narag was a top student and a natural leader prior to his incarceration, his fellow inmates eventually recognized his abilities and made him the secretary of Kapit-Bisig 2000, an umbrella organization of different gangs—or brotherhoods, as Narag preferred to call them—inside the Quezon City Jail.

Teacher, paralegal officer

Through UP's volunteer corps Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, Narag became a paralegal officer inside the jail, teaching functional literacy classes and conceptualizing projects that would improve the lives of the inmates.

"Pahinungod became my vehicle in reaching out to the other inmates because of their educational, paralegal, psychological, cultural and livelihood projects," Narag said.

"The Pahinungod volunteers were my contact to the outside world. Because of my involvement with them, I eventually made myself believe that I was not an inmate but a full-time volunteer," he added.

No Bail Band

Narag helped form the No Bail Band composed of inmates who had musical talent. The band's song, "Hiram na Buhay," became a hit during the execution of rapist Leo Echegaray in 1999.

He also established a center for pop music where the inmates honed their musical skills.

He helped in fund-raising activities like the Munting Bulaklak ng Mayo, which involved the inmates' children, the Miss Quezon City Jail and Miss Gay Quezon City Jail.

As a result of the successful projects, they were able to buy four computers for the inmates' functional literacy class and for the warden's and the records offices.

Narag also conceptualized a computerized system to make the jail's filing and records system more efficient.

Students, not criminals

Pahinungod volunteers helped facilitate the inmates' cases. They were assisted by volunteer inmates who were trained by Narag.

"I always told the other inmates that we were not criminals but volunteers and students," Narag said.

They even called the jail cells "dorms," and the inmates "dormers."

After only three years, Narag became one of the most respected inmates at the jail.

The other prisoners would call him sir, *kuya* (elder brother), and even *tatay* (father).

"I felt honored because the way they addressed me meant that they held me in high esteem," Narag said.

Mini city mayor

In 2000, the inmates elected Narag their mini-city mayor, the highest position for a Quezon City jail inmate.

Narag said he used his position to institute more changes at the jail. He paved the way for the reconciliation of some of the gangs. He was able to purchase new equipment like the jail's public address system.

In January 2002, just as Narag was relishing his role as the jail's "main public servant," he received word that the judge handling the Venturina case was about to promulgate his decision.

Narag was then busy organizing the jail's Valentines' Day fund-raising project.

"I found myself rushing to the jail's grotto, praying to the Lord that He postpone my promulgation for two more days so I could see to it that my project ran smoothly," Narag laughed.

"Then I realized that I was actually putting my freedom on hold for my fellow inmates' sake!"

The decision, originally set for Feb. 13, was reset to Feb. 28.

When Narag was finally acquitted, his fellow inmates clapped and cheered.

"They were happy for me because they knew I could help them more now that I am free," Narag said.

Reconciling

Some time after he was released, Narag tried to reconcile with Venturina's parents. But they told him they were not yet prepared for it.

Narag said Venturina's father, however, told him to "make use of your freedom properly this time," and Narag believes he has been doing that for the past two years.

"I understand them completely. I know how painful it is to lose someone or something you really cherish," Narag said.

God's reason

Narag believes God had a reason for putting him behind bars. He believes that God wanted him to help violence-prone fraternity men avoid a life of regret and to inform people about the country's pathetic prison conditions.

"I know some people think that my advocacy of trying to improve the system is futile," Narag said. "I might not be able to change the system, but at least I made a difference, small as it may be, in a prisoner's life."

GMA finds few fans among concert crowd

From page A1

Ms Macapagal appeared onstage and shook the singer's hand. Then she addressed the American star and the event sponsors: "We would like to thank you for helping us be aware about the evils of AIDS and to help us fight AIDS."

3 minutes

A few spectators politely applauded, but Cruz said "some groups" then shouted, "*Hindi ka namin iboboto* (we will not vote for you)!"

The President thanked the singer again and the two of them hurriedly stepped down. The scene had taken exactly three minutes, and might be described by the four pop hits that Moore performed—"Senses Working Overtime," "Only Hope," "Can We Still Be Friends," "One Way or Another."

It was a cue for the crowd to disperse.

Success despite glitches

Rod Nepomuceno, MTV marketing and communications director, said the show was "by any standard a success" despite a few "minor" glitches—like the malfunctioning audio system, rowdy teenagers, and no doubt, though he had no words for it, the colossal cold shoulder for the last number.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Twin suicide attacks on Iraq police kill 16

KHAN BANI SAAD, Iraq—Sixteen people were killed and more than 50 wounded in twin suicide attacks on Iraqi police stations Saturday, as a civilian cargo plane was forced to make an emergency landing after the first successful missile strike on a plane in the 17-month-old insurgency.

The scale of the carnage from the almost simultaneous car bombings against the two police stations north of Baghdad overwhelmed local hospital staff. Police were forced to fire in the air to disperse anguished residents so they could evacuate the wounded and clear the human remains.

International express courier firm DHL confirmed that all of its staff were unhurt after what the US military said was a SA-7 surface-to-air missile strike on its Airbus A-300 aircraft.

Witnesses said they saw the plane's left wing ablaze before the plane made an emergency return to Baghdad airport, which has remained shut to scheduled civilian flights ever since the US-led spring invasion because of the persistent missile threat from anti-coalition insurgents.

Police chief Ismail Kano al-Askari confirmed that at least six officers were killed when the bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into the police station in the small town of Khan Bani Saad, some 20 km north of the capital.

At least 13 more were known to have been wounded—10 police and three civilians—after the bomber struck at around 7:30 a.m., Askari said.

"The Chevrolet car came very fast at the station. Police opened fire but it didn't stop."

The front of the building was completely blown in.

"We've been utterly overwhelmed and have sent some of the wounded to Baquba," said doctor Taleb Hussein al-Tamimi at the town's hospital.

Medics in Baquba, the provincial capital further north, later confirmed that a seventh officer from Khan Baani Saad had died of his wounds.

But they too were flooded with dead and injured following similar scenes of carnage there after a suicide bomber charged a police station minutes later in an almost identical attack.

At least seven Iraqis were killed, one of them a 9-year-old girl, and another 40 or more wounded, said police Major Sami Hussein.

The dead also included five police and an elderly woman.

"I had just arrived at work when I saw the car charging the station," said Lt. Imad Kazem Rahim.

"Police opened fire and the car exploded before it could hit the building."

The force of the blast left a crater 10 meters across and five meters across.

The northeastern province of Diyala, where the two towns are located, has long been a hotbed of anti-coalition insurgency but the twin attacks were the most devastating here to date. *AFP*

Georgians storm parliament

TBILISI—Tens of thousands of opposition supporters stormed into the Georgian parliament building on Saturday prompting bodyguards of President Eduard Shevardnadze to hustle the shaken veteran leader out of the chamber to safety.

Scores of opposition supporters surged into the chamber, waving flags and seizing microphones to make political speeches, witnesses at the scene told Reuters.

Shevardnadze, 75, was spirited away by his bodyguards and opposition supporters filled the chamber chanting and waving flags.

Shevardnadze had been due to address the inaugural session of the new parliament elected this month in elections denounced as rigged by the opposition.

He has so far rejected opposition demands to resign.

"This is a parliament. We are not in the street. Let all Georgia see what is happening," Shevardnadze said amid chaotic scenes before his bodyguards hustled him away.

Fistfights broke out for a time between his supporters and the opposition.

Security forces massed outside parliament as it began its session and appeared to offer no resistance to the tide of opposition supporters when they stormed the building, the witnesses said.

Opposition leaders seized the microphone and called for calm. But most deputies streamed out of the chamber.

"The entire world is watching us. I ask you, please, to sit down," Mikhail Saakashvili, the main opposition leader told remaining members.

Nino Burdzhanadze, the parliament's outgoing speaker and leader of another opposition group, said: "For two weeks we have been trying very hard to avoid this but Shevardnadze has done nothing to avoid this."

"Georgians won in these parliamentary elections when they said it was time to stop mocking the Georgian people," he said.

Shevardnadze later gave an address to a pro-presidential rally outside parliament. "As long as we are together no enemy will scare us," a shaken-looking Shevardnadze told supporters.

Saakashvili had earlier led opposition activists up to the gates in front of Shevardnadze's offices and called for the veteran leader to quit. *Reuters*

PRESIDENT John F. Kennedy's casket is carried into the United States Capitol followed by his widow Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, their young children John F. Kennedy Jr. and Caroline Kennedy and the president's brother, US Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, in this Nov. 24, 1963 photo by National Park Service photographer Abbie Rowe. REUTERS

America marks 40th year of Kennedy assassination

By Jerome Bernard

WASHINGTON—Americans Saturday will mark the 40th anniversary of the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, one of their most beloved presidents, in one of the defining moments in modern US history.

On Nov. 22, 1963, a brisk, sun-bathed Texas morning, the country's youngest president was cut down by sniper bullets as he and his wife, Jackie, rode in an open-top limousine through the crowd-lined streets of Dallas in a campaign motorcade.

Five years later, his younger brother Robert, then a Democratic presidential hopeful, was felled by an assassin's bullet, setting the stage for a macabre litany of grief and conspiracy theories that still haunts the Kennedy clan.

Lee Harvey Oswald, a troubled former Marine who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and returned with a Russian bride two years later, was arrested and charged with firing the fatal rifle shots from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

Two days later, as he was being transferred between jails, Oswald was fatally shot by Jack Ruby, owner of a local nightclub with Mafia links, who was convicted of murder and died in prison.

Conspiracy theories

A blue-ribbon commission headed by former Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren concluded Oswald had acted alone. But theories of a conspiracy, and a second gunman, persisted.

A recently released film of the assassination, taken from a different angle, appeared to lend credence to the second-shooter theory, showing Kennedy's head being hit by a bullet apparently fired from the right front of his limousine. Oswald had fired from the rear.

But the ABC television network was to air a report later this week confirming that Oswald acted alone.

If there was a conspiracy, who was behind it? Theories abound: the Russians, the Mafia, right-wing fanatics, Cuba, even JFK's vice president and successor, Lyndon Johnson. None has held water.

JFK is buried in Arlington National Cemetery across the Potomac River from the nation's capital. The Kennedy family has not said whether it will hold a memorial ceremony there on Saturday.

Zapruder film

"The Kennedy family always preferred President Kennedy to be remembered on his birthday rather than on the day he died," said Gary Mack, curator of the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, dedicated to preserving in minute detail the events of that fateful Friday morning.

Mack, then a high school student, was having breakfast in the school cafeteria when he heard the news.

"The assistant principal came in. He stood next to our table. He didn't say a word. He looked around, and I noticed his lips were trembling," Mack recalled.

Darwin Payne, a retired communications professor in Dallas, was a cub reporter for a local newspaper at the time. For him, news of the shooting "came from our police reporter, who was monitoring the police dispatcher's radio.

"I walked and ran... to Dealey Plaza (the site of the shooting). I did not know where the president was hit, how exactly it happened. There were anguished people, crying...

"I started looking for eyewitnesses. I found one who said her boss had taken pictures, film. He was Abraham Zapruder. He was in the very next building. She took me to his office..."

The film Zapruder shot and his testimony before the Warren Commission were critical to the commission's inquiry.

Myth and legend

Today, the city of Dallas, try as it may to put the tragedy to rest, has become a repository of its memorabilia. The book depository is a national museum. The exact spot where Kennedy was shot has become a historic site, unchanged since 1963.

Despite historians' attempts to portray him with all of his blemishes —including being chronically ill and dependent on medication, linked to the Mafia, and an inveterate womanizer—JFK remains myth and legend, indelibly imbued on the national psyche.

For the surviving Kennedy brother, Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, the memory of John and Robert lives on.

"They continue to inspire me," he said recently. "They were my heroes." *AFP*

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

November 12, 2003

MEMORAMDUM CIRCULAR NO. 3-2003

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SUBJECT : RECONCILIATION OF PREMIUM AND LOAN REPAYMENTS RECORDS OF GSIS MEMBERS

As you are most probably well aware of, GSIS launched a massive records updating and reconciliation program towards the start of the second quarter of this year. As of to date, we have completed the uploading of manual data into our computer files. Our current effort is now focused on the matching of what appears in our computer records (after uploading our manual data files) with the records of agencies as well as those of our individual members.

We are now sending our representatives to your agencies for the purpose of reconciling what appears in our computer records with those in yours regarding the: service record, premium payments, and loan repayments of individual members belonging to your respective offices. Since the number of our personnel is limited, it would facilitate our effort and therefore benefit your own employees if you could send your representatives to our office for the reconciliation process.

A very important activity which we have begun to undertake is that of providing our members with a printout of individual MEMBERSHIP SERVICE PROFILE (MSP) which indicates the details on the member's service records, annual salary, and premiums paid by the member as contained in our computer data bases.

We are aware that in a very substantial number of cases, these details are incomplete and inaccurate. This is why we know your employees will consult with you regarding the MEMBERSHIP SERVICE PROFILE (MSP) we sent them. Documents now in your keeping such as service records, remittance lists, official receipts, etc. contain information that are material to the correction/ updating of the MSP.

We therefore ask for your support and cooperation in this undertaking. We need you to put the GSIS records of your employees in order. Together, we can ensure that your employees will get the correct amount of benefits from the GSIS at the time when they need their benefits. Yes. We can pay their benefits at the moment they need the benefits-- but only if we can attain and maintain a premium and a loans data base that are 100% accurate and reliable. Accurate and reliable as to completeness and correctness of all information contained therein.

WINSTON F. GARCIA
President and General Manager

Inquirer-Nov. 23, 2003

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US fears new al-Qaida attacks

WASHINGTON—The US government on Friday issued a worldwide warning that al-Qaida may stage new attacks.

The state department highlighted "recent terrorist attacks" in Saudi Arabia and Turkey and said the government "remains deply concerned about the security of US citizens overseas."

The department issued what it called a "worldwide caution" against attacks and plane hijackings.

"We are seeing increasing indications that al-Qaida is preparing to strike US interests abroad," said the warning, which came one day after 27 people were killed and more than 450 injured in two bomb attacks on British targets in the Turkish capital, Istanbul.

US officials have said the attack bore the hallmarks of Osama bin Laden's terror network and the group has reportedly claimed responsibility in a message sent to a Saudi newspaper.

A suicide attack in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on Nov. 8 killed 17 people. A claim of responsibility in al-Qaida's name was also made after that attack.

The US authorities warned on Thursday that more attacks were possible in Turkey and advised Americans to avoid the country after the twin bombings on the British consulate and the Turkish headquarters of the British bank HSBC in Istanbul.

The United States released a similar worldwide caution on Sept. 26 and the latest warning used similar language.

"Al-Qaida and its associated organizations have struck in the Middle East in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and in Europe in Istanbul, Turkey.

"We therefore assess that other geographic locations could be venues for the next round of attacks.

"We expect al-Qaida will strive for new attacks designed to be more devastating than the Sept. 11 attack, possibly involving nonconventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents."

The state department said it was also possible that al-Qaida "will attempt a second catastrophic attack within the United States."

The country has been on a virtual continuous nationwide alert since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, which left more than 3,000 dead.

The alert said there could be "suicide operations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These may also involve commercial aircraft and maritime interests." *AFP*

Counterfeiting scam cost India $663M

NEW DELHI—India ordered federal detectives to probe a $663 million legal document forging scam in which a Bombay financier allegedly bribed police and politicians, a report said Saturday.

The Press Trust of India said Finance Minister Jaswant Singh ordered the probe late Friday over the scam in Bombay, the capital of Maharashtra state which is ruled by India's main opposition Congress party.

The scandal came to light with the arrest of former travel agent and Bollywood film financier Abdul Karim Telgi, who is accused of paying bribes to officials to ignore his counterfeiting of special paper used for legal documents.

The fraud is estimated to have cost the state about 30 billion rupees ($662.8 million) in revenue.

Last week, Maharashtra's Congress-led government appointed a new police chief in Bombay after putting incumbent R.S. Sharma on leave as investigators probe him for links with Telgi. *AFP*

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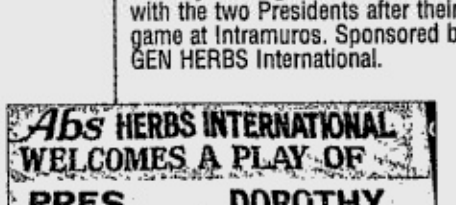
Dorothy with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos during their golf play at Intramuros.

Dorothy sharing ABS HERBS Products with the two Presidents after their golf game at Intramuros. Sponsored by ABS GEN HERBS International.



Grace Gupana of ABS HERBS, Andy Sanchez of "In a Jiffy Magic Sing", Mr. Taby Tabaniag-Chairman Rules Committee, NGAP

Divina Delasin, Dorothy's sister and Grace Gupana at the LPGA Tournament in Palm Springs, California, U.S.A.

Salamat at binigyan mo ang mga kapatid mong Pilipino ng paniniwala sa ating angking kakayahan.

– ***Chino Trinidad***
PBA Commissioner

Dot, Tunay kang natural. Pinoy na Pinoy.
Saludo kami sa iyo.

– ***Dr. Cirilo R. Galindez,*** Chief of Hospital
Veterans Regional Hospital, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTh

Every Filipino should be proud of her.
Ay naku, iilan lang yan!
Sana marami pang sumunod sa yapak nya.
Pinagmamalaki kita!

– ***Ricky Reyes***

What a great time to be a Filipino.
– ***Mike Enriquez,*** GMA 7 Newscaster, "SAKSI"

Congratulations Dorothy! Thanks to you, the Filipinos are heads up once again. You've shown us all poise and grace under **XXTREME** pressure in winning this year's LPGA Tournament of Champions.

– ***Gary V***

More power to you, DOROTHY!
Your win truly inspires us Filipinos to become WORLD CLASS.

– ***Tommy P. Ng***
Sales Director
Diethelm (Phils.) Inc.

We are proud of you, Dorothy!
You are truly world class!
We wish you more success!

– ***Andy Sanchez, Jr.*** , In a Jiffy "Magic Sing"

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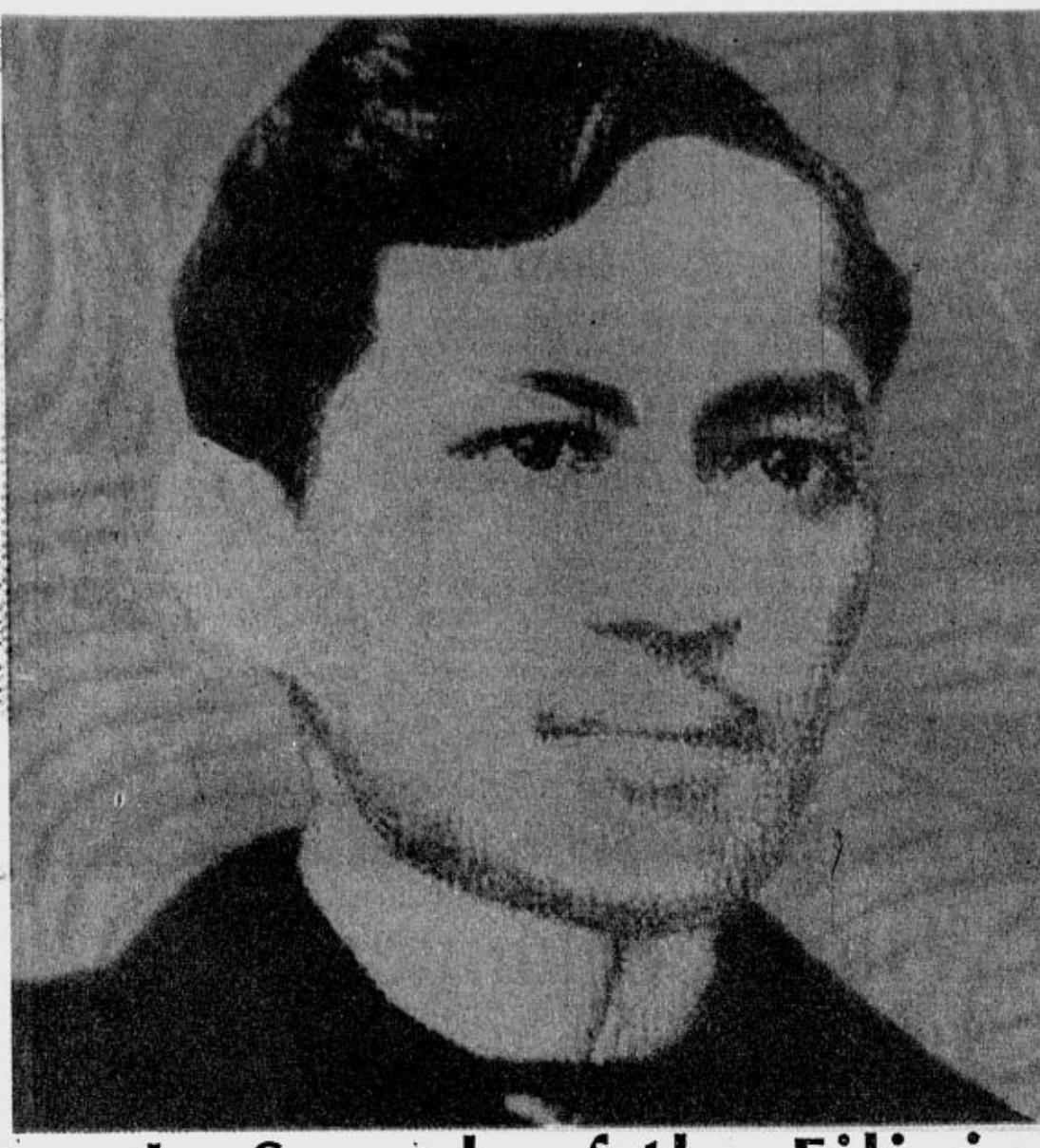


A partnership program of

Dr. JOSE P. RIZAL Memorial Award

In Search of the Filipino Physician of Distinction

MESSAGES

Joselito D. Campos, Jr.
Chairman of the Board &
Chief Executive Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

The Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award, given annually to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a Filipino physician, is special. We have followed this award through the years and noted how its luster has deepened and how precious it has become.

The award is the clearest expression of an ideal by the country's biggest medical organization: that in the practice of the medical profession, the narrow scientific and professional interests must always be consistent with the broad concerns of society and nation.

We applaud the PMA for strongly upholding this ideal in all its endeavors and STAMP for organizing and hosting this year's [illegible] award. We, at Unilab, are privileged to have always been [illegible] award.

Congratulations to this year's awardee and to the PMA.

Carlos C. Ejercito
President &
Chief Operating Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

The Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award is one of the most fulfilling collaborations our company, Unilab, has with the Philippine Medical Association.

It symbolizes the nobility of the medical profession and the great sacrifice that its true practice entails. On the other hand, it celebrates the excellence and achievements of the Filipino physician. It is an award that is distinguished by the honor and prestige it confers upon the awardee and by the humility with which they have accepted it.

In behalf of Unilab, congratulations to the 13th Rizal Memorial awardee, to the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners for hosting this year's memorial award and to the Philippine Medical Association for defining the true Filipino physician for all of us.

Manuel M. Dayrit
M.D., MSc
Secretary of Health

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Medical Association as they confer the 13th PMA-UNILAB-STAMP Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the awardees for their valuable contributions in the field of medicine as exemplified by their significant achievements and by providing humanitarian service to our people.

May you remain dedicated and competent in your chosen field and continue to address the medical needs of our countrymen, especially the poor and the underserved sectors of our society. My sincere gratitude to PMA for continuously supporting the Department of Health's programs aimed in improving the Filipinos quality of life.

The Department of Health lauds all efforts and activities by both government and private institutions which tend to promote excellence in healthcare.

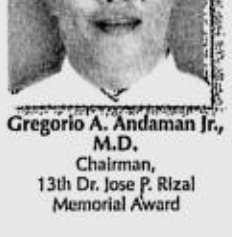
Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Jose T. Sanchez , M.D.
President

Welcome to the 13th PMA-UNILAB-STAMP Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award. We feel honored to have you join us in paying respect to the Filipino physician, who closely exemplifies our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, as a medical practitioner in the service of the sick and as a nationalist in the service of the Filipino people.

This search is a continuing commitment to pay tribute to the model Filipino physician whose outstanding scholastic achievement, dedicated professional service and high moral excellence embody that of Dr. Jose P. Rizal's. The award has grown significantly and is now a national PMA undertaking with the STAMP, along with UNILAB as the proponent and the PMA as the nucleus.

Thank you all!



Gregorio A. Andaman Jr., M.D.
Chairman,
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal
Memorial Award

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, a prestigious award given every year to a deserving Filipino physician who has emulated the life of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. That said, I would like to pay tribute to the 27 entries proudly nominated by their different medical societies. They have been a source of inspiration for us all.

I would also like to thank the individuals who have contributed so much to this project. To the different judges this year, working with you all has been a wonderful experience. To the working committee members, I salute you for sharing your knowledge and time to this worthy endeavor. Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the various medical societies of the Southern Tagalog region, who had been very supportive of this premier project of STAMP.

To our partner in this endeavor, UNILAB, my heartfelt thanks for the unconditional support you have given from the time this award has started.

Congratulations to this year's deserving winner, onward we go, and may the good Lord guide as along our way!

Mona Lisa F. Cosme,
M.D. MGM
STAMP- President 2003-2004
Co-Chairman
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

To our Dear Awardees,

Greetings!

On behalf of STAMP, our warmest and heartfelt Congratulations.

More power to all of you and may God bless you!

The **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD** is given to an outstanding Filipino physician whose life and work embody the ideals of our national hero: in the heroic conduct of his practice, in the way he lives life that is reflective of Rizal's love for God and country, in his continued pursuit of scholarly work and in the selfless service to fellowmen, specially the poor and the underprivileged.

This partnership program of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and United Laboratories Inc., initiated by Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP), hopes to inspire both physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, writer, philanthropist, sportsman and physician.

MILESTONE AND MEMORY: HISTORY OF THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

In 1987, a group of the PMA component presidents from the Southern Tagalog Region conceived of giving an award to an outstanding Filipino physician of the year. The STAMP regional council, headed by Dr. Galicano Espiritu, decided to give the first ever award.

Later, to make the award national in scope, STAMP sought the support of the PMA and United Laboratories Inc. Henceforth, the award was given annually under the name **PMA-UNILAB-STAMP DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD.**

UNILAB CHAMPIONS THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

Championing this prestigious award is the pharmaceutical leader, United Laboratories, Inc.

At the very root of its culture is the spirit of "Bayanihan", a Filipino tradition of comradeship, of working hand in hand with the Department of Health as well as its health care allies -- doctors, dentists, nurses, scientists, technicians and therapists -- for the welfare of Filipinos, by providing high quality pharmaceutical products and services. By championing the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, Unilab hopes to inspire everyone -- physicians and non-physicians alike -- to nurture unity, to work together and then to share the fruits of our achievements.

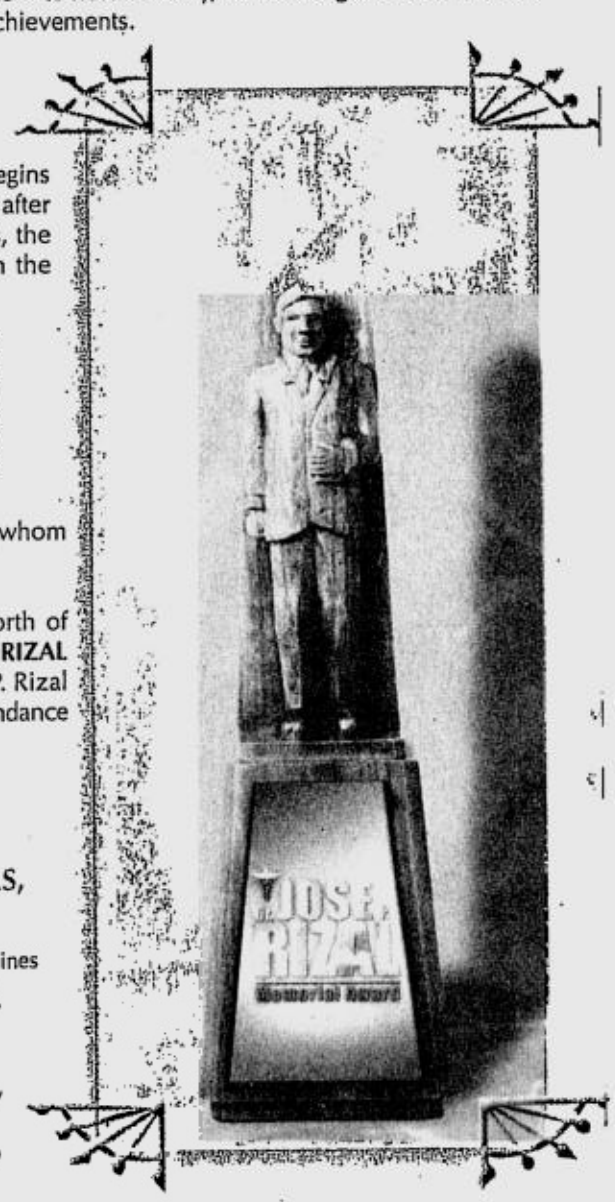
MAKING THE MARK BY LIVING THE LEGACY

The quest for the winners of the **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD** begins with the submission of nominations by the various medical organizations after a stringent selection process from among hundreds of doctors. After this, the nominees' background and accomplishments were evaluated based on the following criteria:

Active Member of the Philippine Medical Association:	5%
Academic Preparation, Experience & Training :	20%
Professional Practice, Research and Scholarly Work:	30%
Community, Socio-cultural & Religious Involvement :	40%
Other qualifications: Excellence in other fields of endeavor:	5%

A Board of Judges makes the final selection of Five Finalists, from among whom one will win the prestigious award.

The Prize Package includes: A Special Finalist Trophy and P50,000 worth of medicines to a charity of choice for the Four Finalists, while the **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARDEE** wins: Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Trophy, Dr. Jose P. Rizal Golden Medallion, P100,000 worth of medicines to any charity of choice, Attendance in a Foreign Scientific Convention.



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MEMORIAL AWARD

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Calamba City

AMBETH R. OCAMPO
Chairman
National Historical Institute

MARTIN M. CABRERA, M.D., DPBO
Vice President
Philippine Medical Association

This year's Organizing Committee is headed by:

Gregorio A. Andaman Jr., M.D.
Chairman,
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

Presentation Night of the DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD
29 November 2003 • 6:30 PM
EDSA Shangri-la Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City

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DR. JOSE P. RIZAL Memorial Award

In Search of the Filipino Physician of Distinction

MESSAGES

Joselito D. Campos, Jr.
Chairman of the Board &
Chief Executive Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

The Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award, given annually to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a Filipino physician, is special. We have followed this award through the years and noted how its luster has deepened and how precious it has become.

The award is the clearest expression of an ideal by the country's biggest medical organization: that in the practice of the medical profession, the narrow scientific and professional interests must always be consistent with the broad concerns of society and nation.

We applaud the PMA for strongly upholding this ideal in all its endeavors and STAMP for organizing and hosting this year's [illegible] award. We, at Unilab, are privileged to have always been [illegible] award.

Congratulations to this year's awardee and to the PMA.

Carlos C. Ejercito
President &
Chief Operating Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

The Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award is one of the most fulfilling collaborations our company, Unilab, has with the Philippine Medical Association.

It symbolizes the nobility of the medical profession and the great sacrifice that its true practice entails. On the other hand, it celebrates the excellence and achievements of the Filipino physician. It is an award that is distinguished by the honor and prestige it confers upon the awardee and by the humility with which they have accepted it.

In behalf of Unilab, congratulations to the 13th Rizal Memorial awardee, to the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners for hosting this year's memorial award and to the Philippine Medical Association for defining the true Filipino physician for all of us.

Manuel M. Dayrit
M.D., MSc
Secretary of Health

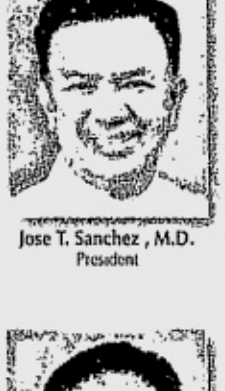
My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Medical Association as they confer the 13th PMA-UNILAB-STAMP Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the awardees for their valuable contributions in the field of medicine as exemplified by their significant achievements and by providing humanitarian service to our people.

May you remain dedicated and competent in your chosen field and continue to address the medical needs of our countrymen, especially the poor and the underserved sectors of our society. My sincere gratitude to PMA for continuously supporting the Department of Health's programs aimed in improving the Filipinos quality of life.

The Department of Health lauds all efforts and activities by both government and private institutions which tend to promote excellence in healthcare.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

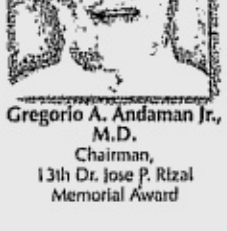


Jose T. Sanchez , M.D.
Presedent

Welcome to the 13th PMA-UNILAB-STAMP Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award. We feel honored to have you join us in paying respect to the Filipino physician, who closely exemplifies our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, as a medical practitioner in the service of the sick and as a nationalist in the service of the Filipino people.

This search is a continuing commitment to pay tribute to the model Filipino physician whose outstanding scholastic achievement, dedicated professional service and high moral excellence embody that of Dr. Jose P. Rizal's. The award has grown significantly and is now a national PMA undertaking with the STAMP, along with UNILAB as the proponent and the PMA as the nucleus.

Thank you all!



Gregorio A. Andaman Jr., M.D.
Chairman,
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal
Memorial Award

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, a prestigious award given every year to a deserving Filipino physician who has emulated the life of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. That said, I would like to pay tribute to the 27 entries proudly nominated by their different medical societies. They have been a source of inspiration for us all.

I would also like to thank the individuals who have contributed so much to this project. To the different judges this year, working with you all has been a wonderful experience. To the working committee members, I salute you for sharing your knowledge and time to this worthy endeavor. Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the various medical societies of the Southern Tagalog region, who had been very supportive of this premier project of STAMP.

To our partner in this endeavor, UNILAB, my heartfelt thanks for the unconditional support you have given from the time this award has started.

Congratulations to this year's deserving winner, onward we go, and may the good Lord guide as along our way!

Mona Lisa F. Cosme,
M.D. MGM
STAMP- President 2003-2004
Co-Chairman
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

To our Dear Awardees,

Greetings!

On behalf of STAMP, our warmest and heartfelt Congratulations.

More power to all of you and may God bless you!

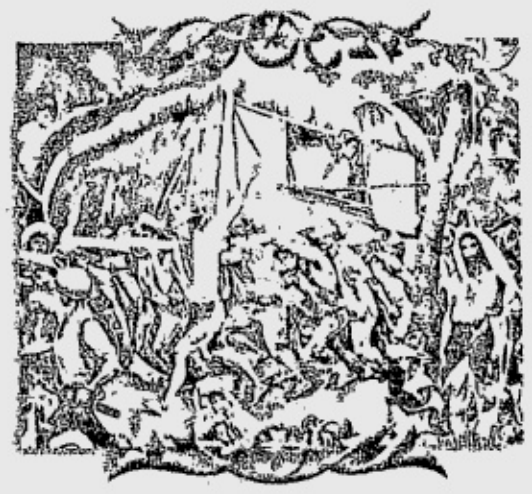
The **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD** is given to an outstanding Filipino physician whose life and work embody the ideals of our national hero: in the heroic conduct of his practice, in the way he lives life that is reflective of Rizal's love for God and country, in his continued pursuit of scholarly work and in the selfless service to fellowmen, specially the poor and the underprivileged.

This partnership program of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and United Laboratories Inc., initiated by Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP), hopes to inspire both physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, writer, philanthropist, sportsman and physician.

MILESTONE AND MEMORY: HISTORY OF THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

In 1987, a group of the PMA component presidents from the Southern Tagalog Region conceived of giving an award to an outstanding Filipino physician of the year. The STAMP regional council, headed by Dr. Galicano Espiritu, decided to give the first ever award.

Later, to make the award national in scope, STAMP sought the support of the PMA and United Laboratories Inc. Henceforth, the award was given annually under the name **PMA-UNILAB-STAMP DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD.**



UNILAB CHAMPIONS THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

Championing this prestigious award is the pharmaceutical leader, United Laboratories, Inc.

At the very root of its culture is the spirit of "Bayanihan", a Filipino tradition of comradeship, of working hand in hand with the Department of Health as well as its health care allies -- doctors, dentists, nurses, scientists, technicians and therapists -- for the welfare of Filipinos, by providing high quality pharmaceutical products and services. By championing the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, Unilab hopes to inspire everyone -- physicians and non-physicians alike -- to nurture unity, to work together and then to share the fruits of our achievements.

MAKING THE MARK BY LIVING THE LEGACY

The quest for the winners of the **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD** begins with the submission of nominations by the various medical organizations after a stringent selection process from among hundreds of doctors. After this, the nominees' background and accomplishments were evaluated based on the following criteria:

Active Member of the Philippine Medical Association:	5%
Academic Preparation, Experience & Training :	20%
Professional Practice, Research and Scholarly Work:	30%
Community, Socio-cultural & Religious Involvement :	40%
Other qualifications: Excellence in other fields of endeavor:	5%

A Board of Judges makes the final selection of Five Finalists, from among whom one will win the prestigious award.

The Prize Package includes: A Special Finalist Trophy and P50,000 worth of medicines to a charity of choice for the Four Finalists, while the **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARDEE** wins: Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Trophy, Dr. Jose P. Rizal Golden Medallion, P100,000 worth of medicines to any charity of choice, Attendance in a Foreign Scientific Convention.

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13th DR. JOSE P. RIZAL
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Beleaguered pop star lays low

SANTA BARBARA, California—Michael Jackson was back in Las Vegas on Friday after posting bail on child molestation charges while his lawyers stepped up preparations for what could become one of the most sensational celebrity court cases ever.

The 45-year-old pop superstar flew back to the desert resort, where he has been filming a video, immediately after being charged Thursday with multiple counts of "lewd and lascivious behavior" with a child under the age of 14. Each charge carries a jail sentence of up to eight years.

The mugshot taken by the Santa Barbara sheriff's department was splashed across newspapers around the world on Friday.

Jackson was taken to the sheriff's department in handcuffs and he emerged less than an hour later waving and flashing a two-fingered "V" sign to a small group of screaming fans.

Forced to hand over his passport to the California authorities and agree to $3 million in bail, Jackson chose not to go back to his Neverland Ranch which is near Santa Barbara. Reunited with his three children, Jackson has made his crisis base at a Las Vegas resort hotel.

The singer has described the charges as "scurrilous" and "a big lie."

His lawyers have insisted they will fight the accusations.

"Lies run sprints, but the truth runs marathons. The truth will win this marathon in court," Jackson said in a statement issued by spokesperson Stuart Backerman.

A court hearing was set for Jan. 9 and Jackson—who has been dogged by allegations and suspicions about his close relations with children for the past decade—seems set to remain in the international media spotlight until then.

The New York Daily News used a headline "Inside His Lair" to describe what it called an "exclusive" picture of a guest bedroom in Neverland where children are said to have spent the night.

Harvey Levin, an executive producer of the "Celebrity Justice" program, told CNN television the court case could become "bigger than O.J. Simpson because he (Jackson) is an international star."

Reports and a Jackson family lawyer said the latest allegations involved an assault on a 12-year-old boy at his Neverland Ranch, but prosecutors and police have not released details.

Court TV said the alleged victim was a 12-year-old cancer victim whom Jackson befriended, and Celebrity Justice said the boy first made the allegations in a therapy session.

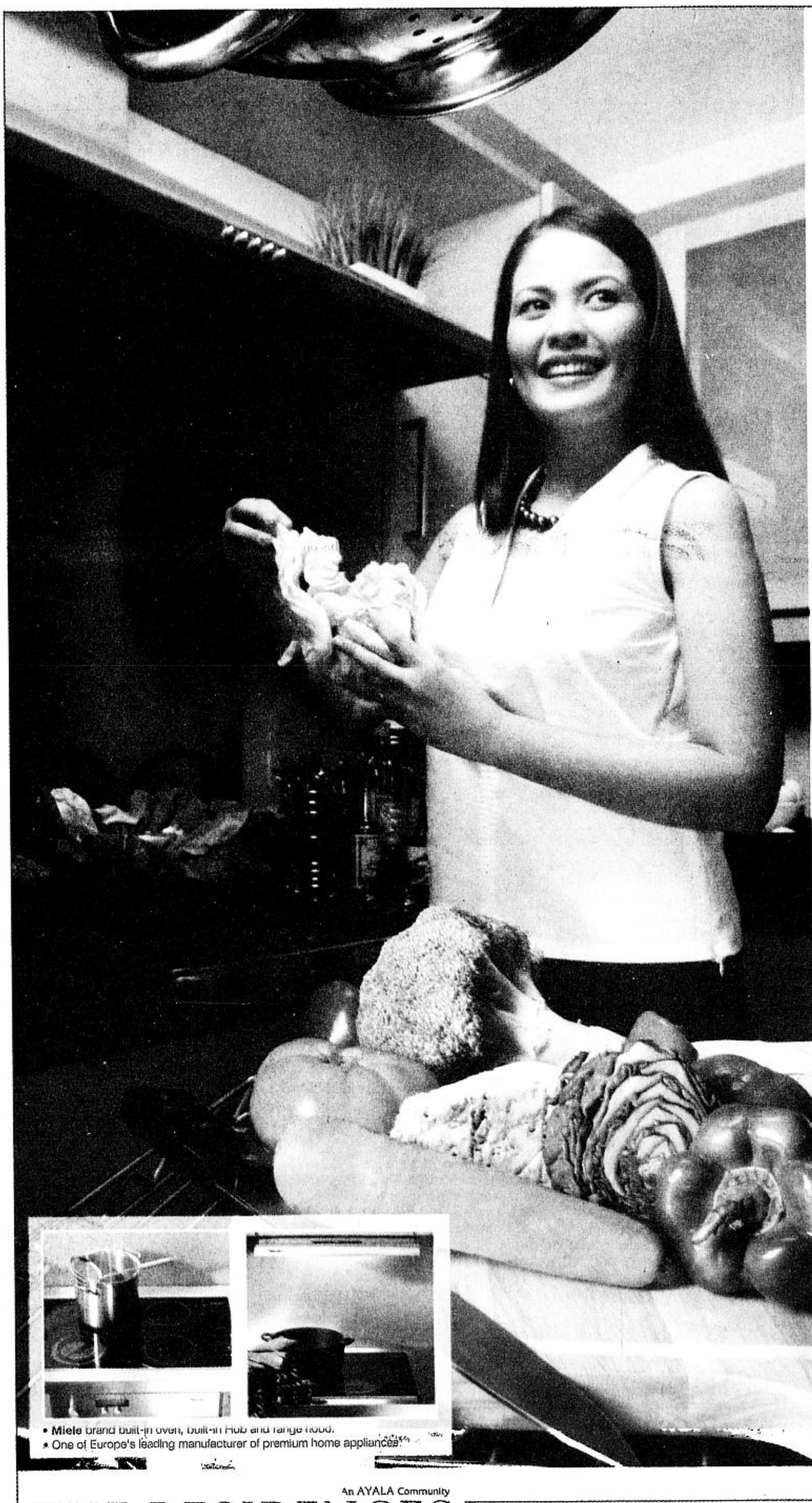
Jackson was the top world pop star of the '80s. But his career waned since accusations were made by another boy in 1993. No criminal action was taken following a multimillion-dollar out-of-court settlement between Jackson and the boy's family.

The same prosecutor who investigated Jackson in 1993, Tom Sneddon, is leading the latest case. He said that this time Jackson would face criminal charges and that the alleged victim's family was not seeking money.

Jackson's mother hinted at a racist motive behind the charges in an interview with a German magazine.

According to the online edition of Bunte magazine, Catherine Jackson said there were two interpretations of the law in the United States—"one for whites and one for blacks." *AFP*

MICHAEL Jackson, in file photo: Trouble in Neverland. REUTERS



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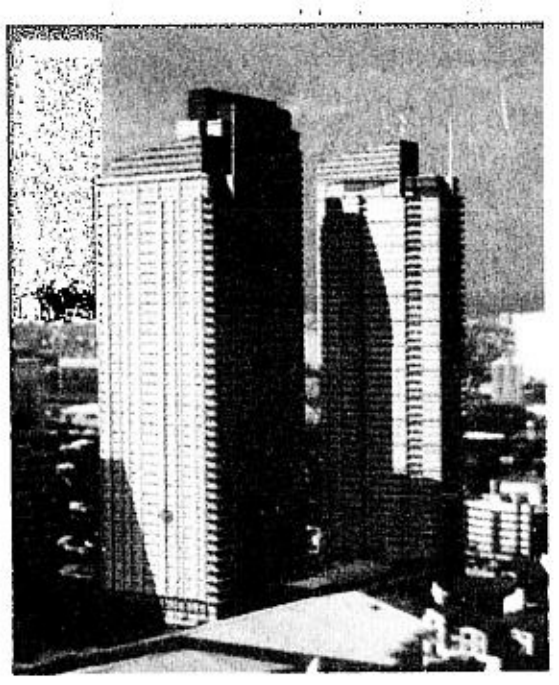

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OPINION

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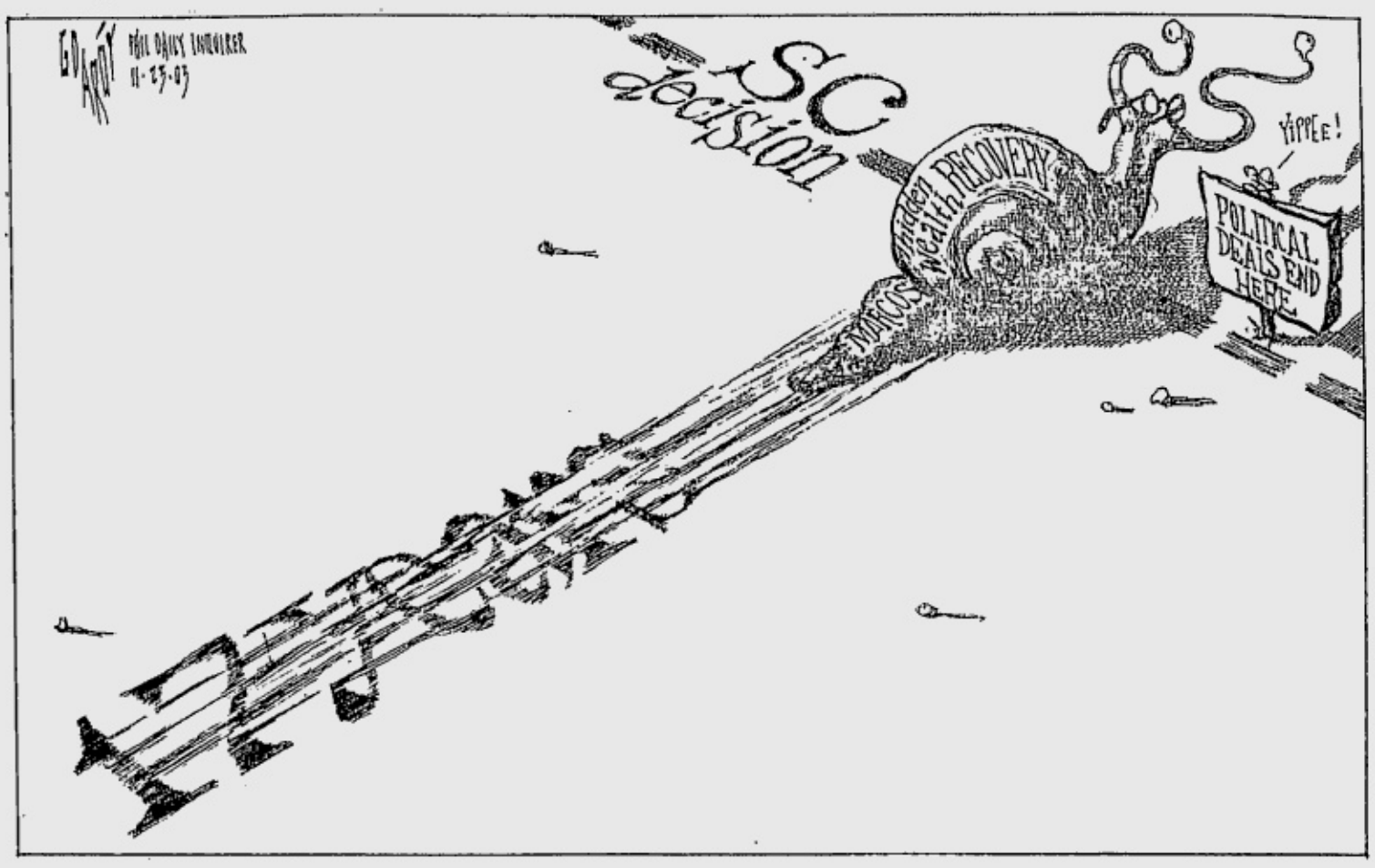

Irresponsible

IN EXPLAINING her change of mind about not running in the May elections, the President said last October: "What matters more is that I changed my mind because there is a higher cause—to change society." But her pursuit of a neophyte senator, the popular news presenter Noli de Castro, as her running mate is proof she is back to politics as usual.

EDITORIALS

De Castro may be a good man at heart, but there is nothing to recommend him for higher office except his popularity. Six vice presidents have ascended to the presidency; for President Macapagal-Arroyo to consider placing a senator whose only qualification is survey-topping popularity in that high office is irresponsible. Changing society, ridding the country of what she has herself called personalistic politics, can take a back seat for now.

But Ms Macapagal has no monopoly on political irresponsibility. Opposition politicians led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, once the president of the country's premier state university, are using all their powers of persuasion to turn the country's second most famous dropout into history's most reluctant candidate. Actor Fernando Poe Jr. may be a good man at heart, but it is not his chosen career or his glittery industry that damns him; it is his lack of political experience, which he acknowledges. In contrast, his close friend and fellow dropout, deposed President Joseph Estrada, had served for over two decades as a public official, first as town mayor, then as senator and vice president.

But at this late stage in his political career, Angara is ready to deny the very reason for being of his beloved University of the Philippines. Democracy does not only require an educated middle class; it must be based on a culture of merit. Otherwise, if democracy relies only on what is popular, or if it equates the popular with the meritorious, the way lies open to what de Tocqueville called the greatest danger to democracy: the tyranny of the majority.

Ineffective

THE IRONY is, the political strategy that both President Macapagal-Arroyo and the opposition have chosen looks good only on paper.

In the 1992 elections, one-term Sen. Joseph Estrada won the vice presidency with over 6 million votes, but his movie fame and political popularity did not help his running mate Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. win Malacañang. In a closely fought contest, Cojuangco placed third behind Fidel Ramos and Miriam Defensor Santiago.

In 1998, two-term Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was elected vice president with over 12 million votes. Her strength at the ballot box, however, failed to help her running mate, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. De Venecia was a far second to Estrada and uncomfortably close to third-placer Sen. Raul Roco.

In the American system which has served as the template of Philippine democracy, the choice of a vice presidential running mate is crucial because Americans vote for a ticket. In the 2000 election, for instance, the main choices were Albert Gore and Joseph Lieberman of the Democratic party, and George W. Bush and Richard Cheney of the Republicans. It is thus possible to speak of geographical and demographic balance, of one candidate's strength compensating for another candidate's weakness, because US voters buy two, so to speak, for the price of one.

In our set-up, however, the advantages of a balanced ticket are dubious at best. Sen. Robert Barbers intimates he should be President Macapagal's running mate, because he hails from Mindanao. Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda belatedly discovered her political independence, because she realized the ruling Lakas party cannot field an all-woman ticket. Roco, whose bailiwick is fiercely loyal Bicol, is scouting for a running mate from the Visayas or Mindanao. But history has proven that Filipinos see their vote for vice president as distinct from their presidential choice.

Ms Macapagal should know all this, and not only because of her own experience in running for the vice presidency. In 1957, in a foreshadowing of the future, the country's top two posts were occupied for the first time in history by candidates from opposing parties. Carlos Garcia of the Nacionalista party was elected president; elected vice president was the Liberal party candidate, a man named Diosdado Macapagal.

Back to politics, Philippine-style

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MANY hoped that the Supreme Court decision last week on the impeachment case would give the nation a respite from the political and legal skirmishes that had rocked it during the past several weeks. But this was not to be as the staged demonstration at Makati the next day proved all too odiously.

The report that the demonstrators were hauled to Ayala Avenue in Makati and paid for their attendance at the rally was not surprising. Such tactics have become the *modus operandi* of the vicious forces that would bribe and incite the masses to cause disorder and mayhem in the name of freedom of expression.

So we are back to politics Philippine-style, with the purchased mob mindlessly participating in the violence not out of an honest sense of outrage and protest but only upon the wicked instigation of clandestine overseers. These unprincipled agitators couldn't care less for the people's welfare but are motivated only by their own selfish ends.

With the impeachment issue seemingly laid to rest, Speaker Jose de Venecia will again mount his desperate appeal for support of the abortive Cha-Cha. Many people suspect, not without reason, that he hopes to be prime minister under the parliamentary system he wants to establish through his unpopular movement.

De Venecia ran for president of the Philippines but was roundly defeated in 1998. He now dreams of heading the government under an amended Constitution where he will be elected not by the voters at large but by a more tractable legislature with fewer people to persuade. He hopes to achieve this goal by going through the back door, as it were, instead of by a direct national mandate.

Given the quality of our present crop of politicians as exemplified by the congressmen-impeachers, we can imagine what persuasions can easily win their choice for prime minister. Given that among these persuasions is cold hard cash, campaigning among the legislators will be much more economical than campaigning throughout the land.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has piously pronounced that she is sacrificing a life of ease and retirement by running for election in 2004 "in the interest of the nation she loves." Such tripe has become so wearisome that the only reaction it deserves is scornful rejection. Shame on her for thinking that intelligent voters—of whom there are still quite a few—can be so easily deceived.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson has accused the President and her husband of rank corruption but has so far failed to prove his charges. Meanwhile, Senate Committee Report 237, which holds him *prima facie* guilty of certain serious offenses, is still on ice. That RTC judge who dismissed the Kuratong Baleleng case for lack of probable cause is now being charged with grave abuse of discretion for prematurely absolving him and the other accused.

To his credit, Lacson has eschewed singing for the people's vote like most cheap politicians. He deserves sincere praise for dignifying his campaigning and putting it on a higher plane.

And what about Sen. Gregorio Honasan? Soon after the Oakwood mutiny, he went underground for fear, he said, of being arrested. He finally surfaced later to belie denunciations of his cowardice and apparent guilt, but he was not arrested as he had feared. The government has not touched him to date although, as the Bible says, "The guilty flee when no man pursueth, but the innocent are as bold as a lion."

No sooner had the tempest in Congress been quelled than another problem arose. Col. Panfilo Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar seized the Naia control tower and were killed on the spot. An investigation conducted by three Senate committees deepened doubts about the summary action taken, given the clear cries of Villaruel that he and his aide were surrendering. The soldiers just barged in and started shooting. Suspiciously, it took them one hour to bring down the bullet-ridden bodies of the victims.

It is fortunate that, as recorded on tape, Villaruel was able to articulate his anger over the corruption and other serious failings of the government before 12 bullets took his life. Those few precious minutes when he protested the ills of our officialdom gave meaning at least to his untimely and needless death.

And now there is the ominous news that Fernando Poe Jr., Da King of Philippine Movies, has finally agreed to consider running for president of the Philippines next year. With the *bakya* crowd supporting him as they foolishly elected Erap in 1998, desperate days, indeed, hang over the Republic of the Philippines like vultures in the sky.

Philippine politics have reached rock bottom that the only way left is up from our accustomed failures. High school graduates naively say in their commencement speeches: "Our greatest glory lies not in never falling but in rising every time we fall." The question is, Are we too tired and too defeated to at least try to rise again?

Christ, our King

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a congressman who visited an old folks' home. As part of his publicity campaign, he went around shaking hands with everyone. As the cameras clicked and rolled, he stopped for an old man at the corridor and asked him: "Lolo, do you know who I am?" The old man just stared at him, and after some moments replied: "No, but if you'll ask one of the nurses, she'll tell you."

* * *

In today's gospel (Jn. 18, 33-37) Pilate questions Jesus' identity. "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus refused to answer Pilate's questions directly. Jesus reminds us that our true identity is not about titles, positions, achievements or even our nationality. How do we look at ourselves? How do we look at other people?

* * *

Where in the world do people display their diplomas and titles outside their homes? In the Philippines, where people give a lot of weight to positions and titles. The Lord reminds us again and again that a person's worth lies in who he is, and not in what he has. The bottom line is that every person is a child of God, with dignity, and so loved.

* * *

I am writing this column in an isolated island somewhere in Pangasinan for my annual retreat. Here, nature is in command. Here, one experiences the beauty of creation, and the simplicity of life. One realizes the providence of God, and the goodness of people. Indeed, very little is needed in life to be happy. Do you know why you are unhappy? It is because you have forgotten your true King and have put so much weight on your own kings in this life.

* * *

In my conversations with the simple fishermen in this island, we often talk about their hopes and dreams. Basically, they want a better life for their children and a better Philippines. I pray that those who have titles and positions really serve our people. They are counting on you. Concentrate more on your responsibility and not so much on your perks and privileges.

* * *

The King of all plants in this island or in any island for that matter, is the Coconut. Do you know why? Not only because it is a survivor. It is because the coconut serves all. It is a very giving tree. Let us learn from the coconut that true and generous service is what Kings are made of. Any leader who does not serve, does not deserve the title nor the position. Keep this in mind when we choose our leaders again in May 2004.

* * *

I had the chance to see the beautiful bird called the Kingfisher as I watched it dive and catch fish one morning, I realized that we all should be Kingfishers. i.e., fishers for the King.

* * *

According to a story I heard, a woman once asked Confucius: "Sir, do clever men make good husbands?" His answer was: "Clever men never become husbands." We often hear of people who are clever in the ways of the world. They are admired for their business acumen, pragmatism and efficiency. We must not forget our gospel values in this fast, busy and unfeeling world. We must continue to follow Christ Our King.

* * *

It is interesting to note that the sheep would never follow the voice of a stranger. The sheep always follow their shepherd. But, if they are sick, they will follow anybody. This sentence could mean if they (sheep) are sick, they will follow anybody or, it could mean, if they (shepherd) are sick, the sheep will follow anybody. There are a lot of sick sheep and sick shepherds these days.

* * *

"If you are intelligent, you are admired;
"If you are wealthy, you are envied;
"If you are powerful, you are feared;
"If you have a good heart, you are loved"

We, who follow Christ the King must, in a world so full of hatred and materialism, continue to have good hearts and continue to be God's loving presence, in the here and now. That's what it means to stand for Christ the King. Who, what do you stand for?

* * *

Did you hear the story about a doctor who gave his patient six months to live? The man could not pay his bill, so he gave him another six months! Many times we postpone our full allegiance to Christ our King, not that we deny Him, but we do not really make Him the No. 1 priority in our lives. Aside from Him, we have other kings whom we serve and love. If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart, and postpone not your conversion and love, for there may not be another six months.

* * *

One of the highlights of my retreat was seeing the beautiful sunset on the China Sea from the rest house of Mayor and Mrs. Gabriel Navarro, together with his administrator, Tammy Olores, at Surip, Bani, Pangasinan. Mayor Navarro, brother of Gen. Marcelo Navarro, is one of the few mayors I know who really takes care of the ecology. Don't forget that Christ is the King of all creation. Here we are, so busy with our daily concerns, politics and all, but we must not forget that we have only one earth for ourselves and for our children.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, you are our King. Help us to take care of the earth and of one another, Amen.

The 'Bow-wow' bows out of our lives

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

FIRST the good news: Apparently the Philippine National Police and other security forces did a better a job in securing President Bush during his recent visit to Manila, compared to their British counterparts. Reports on the Bush visit to London indicate that a tabloid reporter was able to infiltrate Buckingham Palace by posing as an employee of the royal household.

The bad news: Kidnap-for-Ransom (KFR) operations are on the rise with the Filipino-Chinese community up in arms over the recent kidnap-slay of Betti Chua Sy. Is it to embarrass the administration, or to raise funds for the coming election campaign, or both?

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At the Philippine Military Academy, the "Bow-wow" refers to the battalion (now brigade) adjutant who barks out the orders at the start of a parade, calling to attention the units of the cadet corps and receiving the reports of the different commanders prior to proceeding with the rest of the ceremony. At the cadet mess, he is also the fellow who reads out the orders or special announcements regarding corps activities for the day.

The adjutant is probably one of the more visible officers of the corps staff and is best identified by the manner in which he takes up his position during parades. Some proceed briskly, almost running, often making them an object of amusement for the parade ground audience. Others move at a moderately fast pace but in both cases always maintaining their balance and poise.

One of the smoother marching "Bow-wows" of the cadet corps, particularly during the early post-war years was Cadet Jose V. Sembrano, of the Class of 1953. When we entered the military academy as plebes in April 1952 we were received by first class men belonging to this class. The Baron or First Captain, was Angel Kanapi of Tuguegarao, Cagayan (now a Toyota executive) and his staff consisted of Jose Sembrano, the adjutant, Orlando Villadelgado, the S-3 or Training Officer, and Tomas Reyes, the S-4 or Logistics Officer.

When we arrived at Fort Del Pilar, fresh recruits from civilian life, it was this particular group that introduced us to the harsh realities of cadet life. The glamorous image that one associated with the corps was wiped out the moment we set foot inside Melchor Hall under the stern gaze and no nonsense behavior by a reception committee that would give us our first taste of military discipline.

During mealtime, cadets are usually seated with their respective companies inside a huge mess hall. Separate from the companies is the battalion staff table reserved for the First Captain and his three assistants, with one plebe assigned to attend to their needs. At one time, for some reason, I was the designated plebe for the battalion staff table. In addition to having to sit on one inch of my chair with a straight back, it was my duty to see that everything the staff required was immediately available...water, food, beverages, dessert, etc., aside from having to know the answers to all questions asked of me.

Of the four gentlemen who I dined with during that period, the thing that impressed me most about them was their behavior. If I made mistakes or committed "boners," and I certainly had a fair share of them, I would usually be reprimanded in a stern and forceful manner but never in raging anger or the use of harsh words or insults. I have always felt that was the way to treat subordinates.

It has been half a century since we first met up with the Class of 1953. More than any other group, they were our mentors and much of what we turned out to be, good or bad, is in large part due to their influence.

Through the years I lost track of many members of the class. Of the battalion staff, I was informed that Orlando Villadelgado of Negros Occidental, was the first to go. He died in Ranger counter-insurgency operations. Tom Reyes of Angeles City succumbed to natural causes.

Last Thursday, Brig. Gen. Jose Sembrano of Dagupan City, the "Bow-wow" of the class, passed away. He was one of five from Pangasinán in their group. The others were Ricardo Magno, (UP High), Genaro Frias, Romulo Cabantac and Noe Andaya.

Joe "Pepot" Sembrano was a man of varied interests and abilities. He excelled in gymnastics, track and field and boxing. In fact, he became the toast of the academy when in his final year, he knocked out the local champion in a boxing match held in Baguio City. Upon graduation, he was the recipient of the Athletic Sabre for "having rendered the most valuable services to the academy in the field of athletics." In life, Sembrano always exhibited a pleasant disposition and a sense of humor that complemented his boyish charm.

But perhaps, more than anything else about his life, there was something that many outsiders may not have been aware of. Joe Sembrano was an in-law of President Fidel V. Ramos, his son Alex (PMA Class 1982) having married Ramos' daughter Chula. But not a whiff of scandal has ever surrounded their relationship. He was helpful to people but he never took advantage of his closeness to the President in an improper manner. In this age of *kamaganaks* and business cronies and influence peddlers, his example is worthy of emulation by all of us.

Another grandstanding show in the Senate

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

IF there is something that this country does not lack in, it's "instant experts." Or people who, after something tragic happens, criticize the decisions made in the heat of the event or say how they would have handled the situation if they were at the scene.

The aborted and bloody end to the takeover of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport control tower last Nov. 8 was not spared this experience. Two Senate committees are taking a second look at the incident, particularly the circumstances that led to the death of former airport official Panfilo Villaruel and his aide, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Ricardo Cathcillar.

This latest probe joins the long list of investigations "in aid of legislation" that various Senate committees have conducted this year but, to date, remain unfinished or, if completed, the appropriate reports have not been submitted to the chamber for deliberation.

Nothing has been heard from the committees that looked into the July 27 Oakwood mutiny after the renegade military officials refused to further participate in the proceedings. They could not stomach the senators' grandstanding at their expense.

The inquiry into the Jose Pidal accounts appears to have reached a dead end. The senators have not yet made up their mind on whether to force businessman Ignacio Arroyo to testify or uphold his right not to be compelled to reveal information about his personal affairs.

Pre-judgment

Also languishing in the Senate freezer are the investigations on the "pyramid" scams that bilked thousands of Filipinos of their hard-earned money, the dispute between Fraport AG and Piatco over the construction of Naia Terminal 3, and the $2-million bribe allegedly given by former Rep. Mark Jimenez to then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, to name a few.

Like past Senate probes, the investigation on the Naia control tower incident started with a big bang. Several senators made the rounds of media giving their two cents worth (that's their real value) on how Villaruel and Catchillar were able to sneak firearms into a supposedly highly secured place and the strategy used by the police-team to end the siege.

But before the proceedings could start, Senate President Franklin Drilon demanded the resignation of DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza for the serious security breach. Mendoza and the other government officials concerned were adjudged guilty even without hearing their side of the story.

Drilon's pre-judgment appears to have rubbed off his fellow senators. Midway into the investigation, two senators already concluded that the assault team was guilty of overkill and violated the rules of engagement when they used heavy firepower to neutralize Villaruel and Cathcillar.

In the comfort of their air-conditioned offices and away from the tension of that fateful night, it was easy for the senators to arrive at that conclusion. They were not under time pressure to recover the control tower before the early morning flights started to come in. They did not suffer the anxiety figuring out whether Villaruel and Catchillar had ringed the place with explosives that could explode at the press of a button. Neither were they worried that the two may have strategically positioned themselves to catch the assault team in their line of fire the moment it entered the room.

Hindsight

Except probably for Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, none of the senators can claim to have experienced the life-and-death situation that the assault team faced that night. The closest brush with death that these senators may have had was probably choking on a fishbone or crossing a busy street with no traffic lights. They do not know what it is to make a move that could mean not seeing their loved ones forever or spending the rest of their lives with serious physical disabilities.

No amount of reenactment or role-playing can replicate the conditions that the airport officials and assault team went through during the takeover of the control tower. When human life is on the line, there is little room for delay or hesitation.

Of course, after the smoke of battle has cleared, it is easy for "armchair generals" to pass judgment on the action of those who risked their lives to accomplish their mission. Hindsight, after all, is always 20-20 vision.

The senators should not lose sight of the fact that the control tower tragedy was initiated by Villaruel and Cathcillar, not the assault team. While Villaruel may have legitimate grievances against the government (and who does not), he does not have the right to take over a vital government installation and endanger the lives of countless Filipinos.

By their action, Villaruel and Catchillar virtually signed their own death warrants. Both had extensive military experience. With the Oakwood incident still fresh in their minds, there is no doubt they knew the government would not hesitate to use all its resources to put a quick end to their misadventure.

Result

For doing their job, the airport officials, thanks to the senators, are now the villains in that tragic incident. It's a classic case of "damned if you do and damned if you don't." Had the takeover not ended immediately and, in the process, caused the lives of airline passengers, the officials would have been raked over the coals for gross inefficiency. With the swift but bloody resolution of the crisis, the same officials are now being pilloried for the use of excessive force.

Assuming the Senate investigation lives up to its billing as "in aid of legislation," what law does the Senate intend to enact to prevent a repeat of the incident? A law that requires all vital government offices to install surveillance equipment in their premises so that if somebody holes himself inside and claims that he has ringed it with explosives, the police can check the screen monitors to see if he's telling the truth then decide whether to bring in heavy guns or wait for him to be physically exhausted.

To address possible surrender feelers by takeover artists, how about a law that instructs the police to monitor radio and television stations to make sure no surrender pleas are being aired on the air before they make the final assault?

If these suggestions look inane, they are meant to be. With the track record of past Senate investigations as the yardstick, the inquiry into the airport incident is "all sound and fury signifying nothing." It will fade into oblivion as soon as another event with strong publicity value happens.

Everthing old is new again

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A HARBINGER of the holiday season, at least for this ballet-besotted family (or rather, mother and daughter), is "The Nutcracker" ballet.

And we're not the only ones, it seems.

As Lisa Macuja writes in the program for this year's Ballet Manila staging of this Yuletide staple: "You know that Christmas is nearing when you hear the familiar strains of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite coming from the rehearsal studios of ballet companies all over the world."

"The Nutcracker" is that most special of ballets—at once popular and accessible while providing afficionados rich material for appreciating the technical prowess of the dancers and critiqueing their individual interpretations of familiar roles.

The story of Masha, the girl who dreams of the adventures that her Nutcracker Prince takes her on in the Land of the Sugarplum Fairy, has enthralled generations of audiences around the world. Children are enchanted by the fantasy elements: the Christmas tree that "grows" of its own accord, the giant dancing rats, the moving dolls and figurines from around the world, the snowflakes flitting about the stage, and the Nutcracker who transforms into a handsome, dashing prince.

Adults, on the other hand, are swept away by the incomparable score of Tchaikovsky—especially the lushly romantic pas de deux and the elegant Rose Waltz—as well as the showcase it affords a company, whose individual members are given a chance to shine in featured roles that challenge their technique and artistry.

Though it has staged "The Nutcracker" almost every Christmas season since 1998, this year's Ballet Manila staging is extra special, featuring a young cast of new company members, as well as a "small Masha" and a "big Masha," following the traditional Russian version.

* * *

IT is certainly a pleasure, for this viewer, at least, who has sat through numerous "Nutcracker" stagings, to watch a renewed, reinvigorated version of this most familiar and beloved ballet. And as the parent of a BM student, it is as well an emotionally fulfilling moment, seeing young dancers, many of whom one had tracked with benevolent, maternal concern, fulfill their promise with consummate skill and confidence. For many of the new company members, this year's "Nutcracker" is nothing less than their professional debuts in featured roles, and I felt a well of sympathy and shared pride with their parents who must have seen this as the culmination of years of sacrifice and patient nurturing.

If for nothing else, this year's "Nutcracker" is testimony to the vigor and energy of the company, a pool of talent enriched by the rigorous training and exacting discipline of the BM School. Here's ample proof of how BM training provides the best possible preparation for the young dancer seriously contemplating a career in this field.

* * *

AS the "small Masha," Danica Rilli meets the technical demands of her role, while imbuing her character with charm and innocence, traits not even the most accomplished adult actor can easily pull off. Always a confident dancer, Danica enriches her performance here with personality and verve, never losing her presence even among older dancers.

Other young BM students, all of them in their early or pre-teen years, will dance the "small Masha" in subsequent performances: Bea Castaneda, Sarah Samaniego and Patricia Hermosa.

Lisa Macuja, BM's artistic director and principal, essays the role of "big Masha" and the Sugarplum Fairy. Macuja is in her usual exemplary form, which may not sound all that convincing unless one is aware of the extraordinary high standards she sets for herself, standards no other classical ballet artist here can yet meet. Even more exciting news is that her alternates are all young company members: Mylene Aggabao, Marian Faustino and Christine Rocas.

* * *

WHILE sitting through "Nutcracker" one year, I fantasized about BM staging a "student version" of this ballet. Now that fantasy has come true, but the students have since graduated into company members.

Among the featured performers, outstanding were Gabriella Galvez and Jonathan Janolo in the demanding role of the Arabian dolls. Galvez was particularly enthralling, supple and flexible, imparting an air of mystery. What she may as yet lack in sensuality Gabriella makes up for with a strong stage presence.

Gabrielle Conde and Gerardo Francisco make a sprightly Chinese pair, while Eileen Lopez and Jerome Espejo exude energy and flair as the Spanish dolls.

Also worthy of mention, as always, is the corps, especially in the dances of the Snowflakes and the Rose Waltz who enchant with their flawless precision and grace.

* * *

INDEED, this season's "Nutcracker" exemplifies the very spirit of ballet, which is the handing down of a tradition of dance and technique that dates back centuries to the Royal Courts of France and Russia but is born anew with every generation of dancers moving on from barre to stage.

The classical repertoire of ballet may be centuries old—supplemented through the years by the works of new choreographers—but the dances remain ever-new with every new interpretation, every young dancer who finds himself or herself at the crossroads, leaving a life of toiling in anonymity in the studio, for moments of glory in the limelight of the stage.

Ballet education, which never truly ends, demands years of rigorous physical effort and meeting the relentless demands of honing one's artistry. But it may all be worth it when the right moment comes, and one's gifts find expression onstage, in front of an appreciative audience.

Bush's double talk in Britain

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

BRITAIN is part of Europe but it is not European. It is closer to America, not alone in language, but in the partnership it has forged with its former colony in a world that is increasingly anti-American. George W. Bush Jr. was in London this week not just to visit the Queen, but also to remind his British allies of the definitive goals of this Anglo-American special relationship.

Their common mission, he said in his opening speech in London, is "to build the peace and security of all free nations in a time of danger." Three "pillars" support this vision. "We will encourage the strength and effectiveness of international institutions. We will use force when necessary in the defense of freedom. And we will raise up an ideal of democracy in every part of the world." No one will probably quarrel with any of these objectives. But because they emanate from the mouth of a dangerous man, they acquire an ambivalent and sinister quality that invites careful examination.

It may seem, for example, as if the declaration to "encourage the strength and effectiveness of international institutions" is tantamount to a wish to do penance for the mistake of invading Iraq without the collective sanction of the United Nations. But Bush remains righteous about Iraq. Before Europe's critical leaders start hailing an imagined softening of American attitude, they ought to read the subtext of his speech.

In the same breath that Bush pays homage to the importance of international institutions and collective response, he states that "the credibility of the UN depends on a willingness to keep its word and to act when action is required." Recalling the unlamented collapse of the League of Nations, "lacking both credibility and will," he warned against meeting dangers to the world with mere resolutions. "We must meet those dangers with resolve," he said, drawing a sharp distinction between words (resolutions) and action (force). In a dig at the tedious UN process of arriving at a firm consensus, Bush stated: "We understand as well that the process of multilateralism is not measured by adherence to forms alone—the tidiness of the process—but by the results we achieve to keep our nations secure."

This is not a chastened Bush reciting a redemptive ode to multilateralism; this is the same Bush who harbors a deep contempt for any collective process America cannot dominate. This is a man who loves to talk about peace but sees its attainment only as an outcome of the use of force. "The second pillar of peace and security in our world is the willingness of free nations, when the last resort arrives, to restrain aggression and evil by force." This may as well be the sole pillar on which US domination of the world today rests. "The people have given us the duty to defend them and that duty sometimes requires the violent restraint of violent men."

One wonders where and how Bush got the notion that people anywhere in Afghanistan and Iraq have "given" America "the duty to defend them." But, of course, this is colonialism's old conceit—to represent as a burden and duty the act of taking over another country. Had we seen them as liberators, would we have launched the Philippine-American War? Would the Iraqis be killing American soldiers in numbers never anticipated if they saw America as a liberator and friend? "We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq and pay a bitter cost of casualties and liberate 25 million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins," says Bush. "Thugs and assassins" they may be in his eyes, but to many Iraqis they are heroes.

In a stirring line that could have been uttered by Arafat or, indeed, by Iraqi and Afghan guerillas, Bush intoned: "In a world where oppression and violence are very real, liberation is still a moral goal, and freedom and security still need defenders." How right he is! Clearly, he is unable to see that in many parts of the world today, America is perceived not as liberator but as the source of oppression and violence, and the target of moral wars of liberation.

Finally, Bush pays homage to "the global expansion of democracy and the hope and progress it brings"—the "third pillar" of American security. "We cannot rely exclusively on military power to assure our long-term security. Lasting peace is gained as justice and democracy advance." On this value, he predicates the war against tyranny and dictatorship. He sees only the tyrants of Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. Where dictatorships are friendly to America, he is silent. One wonders what he means when he says: "We must shake off decades of failed policy in the Middle East. Your nation and mine in the past have been willing to make a bargain to tolerate oppression for the sake of stability. Longstanding ties often led us to overlook the faults of local elites." How true!

But Bush makes no reference to the Saudi autocrats. It could be a vague reference to the opportunistic relationships that both Britain and America had with Saddam Hussein in the past. More clearly, he used this line to whip Arafat and his associates, the unnamed "Palestinian rulers who intimidate opposition, who tolerate and profit from corruption and maintain their ties to terrorist groups." Bush dislikes Arafat intensely not because he is a tyrant but because this crafty Palestinian is not a malleable American boy.

Bush's speech was interrupted by applause many times. He was preaching to the converted. Out in the streets of London, where thousands had gathered to protest his visit, no one believed a word of what he was saying.

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK *of the* TOWN

Should Erap leave for the US?

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

THE PUBLIC witnessed last week Malacañang floating a trial balloon for a highly divisive issue. First, President Macapagal-Arroyo offered "total reconciliation" to all groups and individuals fighting the government.

Then Malacañang officials focused on the need to reconcile with deposed President Joseph Estrada, who they said could be allowed to leave for the United States for medical treatment.

Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, Ms Macapagal's emissary to Estrada, said that for humanitarian reasons the President would be amenable to allowing Estrada to undergo knee surgery in the US. The day before, the President's chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao said he personally thought it might not be "a bad idea for unity in the country."

The Palace proposal was supported by El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who said reconciliation with Estrada and his supporters would put an end to political destabilization in the country.

Because the idea of reconciliation with Estrada is being floated when the presidential election is just a few months away, some see it as a means to enlist the support of the Estrada forces. "This move should also win votes. It's not realistic to say that it's purely compassion," said Jesuit provincial superior Romeo Intengan.

There's a hitch, though. The Sandiganbayan is trying Estrada for plunder, a non-bailable offense. But should the anti-graft court decide to let Estrada leave the country, one can say that its justices are not immune to political pressure.

He needs help

By Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito
Senator

President Estrada should be allowed to travel. I cannot think of any reason why he should be prohibited from doing so. It is his right to seek the best medical attention possible, as necessitated by his deleterious physical condition. He needs help.

If he were to truly recuperate, he should be allowed to consult and engage the services of his doctor of choice, in whom he has so much trust and confidence, having had extensive experience attending to his medical needs. Such choice falls within the ambit of a patient's bill of rights.

If he has his way, Estrada will like to avoid causing too much trouble—as he has been doing for the past three years, if only to prevent further political strife and division among our clearly divided people—over his supposed medical trip abroad.

Truth is, he has been complaining about his health but has decided to keep mum about it, albeit he is suffering, so as not to rouse further public hatred of his government, which in turn might have negative repercussions on the economy and our political stability.

You see, Erap, even if languishing in captivity and going through inhumane treatment, is doing his share to sincerely promote peace and unity, as it has always been embodied in his brand of leadership since the start of his political career.

Unfortunately, his condition is worsening. Unless immediate medical help is obtained, his health can further deteriorate; hence, the desire for treatment abroad.

Anyway, the issue of whether or not he can seek medical treatment abroad is subject to the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan. Sadly, Erap has been kept a political prisoner. It appears, based on recent developments, it will stay that way. A motion, in fact, has just been denied by the court, much to the chagrin and dismay of millions of his supporters.

As of this time, Erap's condition is alarming. Complications have set in, which may leave him paralyzed.

Submit first to court jurisdiction

By Heherson Alvarez
Lakas-CMD national spokesperson

The Sandiganbayan, where former President Joseph Estrada is being tried for plunder, has the authority to act on his petition to be treated abroad. Malacañang has correctly pointed this out.

While there are compassionate and humanitarian considerations to enable the former President to leave for treatment, it is imperative that he first submit to the jurisdiction of our courts, especially the Sandiganbayan.

It is not advisable to allow him to leave the country under present circumstances where he has consistently repudiated the jurisdiction not only of the Sandiganbayan but also of the Supreme Court over his person.

He has, in fact, stoutly maintained that he is the legitimate President of the republic and has not resigned and therefore he cannot be prosecuted and is exempt from suit. If he leaves the country now, he will be completely relieved of any accountability to the Sandiganbayan or to any judicial process.

It must be unequivocally established, before any decision is given, that the ex-President is being charged with a criminal offense.

Submission to the authority of the Sandiganbayan is a prerequisite so that the court can execute its power to extend compassion to the former President for a medical travel permit and bind him to corresponding conditions that will ensure his return to trial.

This restriction should include setting the duration for the trip or executing a waiver for his appearance in court and acquiescence to being tried *in absentia* if he fails to come back within the period set, or such other appropriate conditions for the issuance of his passport, or any arrangement with the host government that his visa will be nothing more than a permit for medical treatment.

Without this guarantee, we may find ourselves in a contentious situation should he choose to deny or reject the legal obligation for which he is culpable.

If the deposed President were permitted to leave under prevailing circumstances without the correct legal mandate with restrictions, what would prevent him from declaring abroad that he is being persecuted in this country?

In a state such as California where the death penalty is prohibited, he may file for asylum on the ground that if he loses a criminal case, his life will be in jeopardy.

This could open a claim for a government in exile, which could be an irritant or disturbing political issue. Estrada could conceivably insist, as he does now, that the legitimately installed President is an interloper.

It does not make political sense for us to create an opportunity for a deposed President to blow his trumpet and justify his misdeeds in the international arena.

Even if Estrada is in jail facing plunder charges, we are all concerned about his health. However, in response to his medical status, should the deposed President continue to refuse to recognize the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan, the court can arrange to bring in a doctor of his choice to treat him in the best available hospital in our country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's expression of compassion in accordance with her policy of reconciliation with justice should not be necessarily viewed as a vote-getting device.

It is a sensible exercise of presidential responsibility to moderate the level of political tension. As a matter of fact, non-objection to a possible Sandiganbayan decision to send Estrada overseas will cut both ways. The President may lose the sympathy of those who brought about Edsa 1 and II although she may win some in the opposition camp. Diehard Erap supporters may never vote for her. *(A former senator and congressman, Alvarez was one of the signatories to the impeachment complaint against then President Joseph Estrada in 2000)*

Doctors can treat him in RP

By Fr. Joe Dizon
Convenor, Plunder Watch

Plunder Watch reiterates without qualification and hesitation that Joseph Ejercito Estrada, accused of plunder before the Sandiganbayan, should not be allowed to travel abroad for medical treatment.

The reasons are clear and straightforward. First, there are no compelling medical reasons for Estrada to travel abroad in order to get competent, quality and timely medical attention and treatment for his knees, back and other ailments. He has been to his doctors here and he can be seen and be treated by US-based physicians should he choose that option. Moreover, the technology and facilities to undertake knee surgery has long been available in the country as has been attested to by experts in the field.

Second, Estrada stands accused of the heinous crime of plunder, which is non-bailable. Thus, to allow him to travel abroad without any legitimate reason is to give him special treatment, plain and simple. It will confirm our people's perception of two types of justice in this country: one for the rich and well connected (not to mention someone capable of destabilizing the administration) and another for the poor and downtrodden.

Third, the accused hesitates, if not resists, seeking medical treatment abroad. According to Estrada, he is afraid he will not be allowed to come back; he risks being unable to campaign for his favored presidential candidate who, by the way, his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, predicts will unseat Ms Macapagal. (Thus there is talk about the need for a "covenant" between Ms Macapagal and Estrada wherein the terms and conditions of his going abroad will be spelled out to each other's satisfaction.)

The conclusion is thereby inescapable: the Sandiganbayan must reject this rehashed motion and uphold its earlier decision to disallow travel abroad for Estrada.

Plunder Watch had earlier anticipated the outcome of this much touted "trial of the century." The defense lawyers have actually succeeded in their game plan of delaying the trial to the point where Ms Macapagal's political survival and a much sought after second term are the overriding imperatives in the "reconciliation" thrust of Malacañang.

The Sandiganbayan Special Court and the entire judicial system stand to be mocked at the rate this judicial issue is made the subject matter of secret deals between the Erap camp and Malacañang.

We thus appeal to the court to stand by its previous decision and not be swayed by the pronouncements of no less than Ms Macapaga.The court should just ignore the noise created by a mix of politicians, religious leaders, opinion columnists and all sorts of political busybodies who give the most specious arguments, most of them underpinned by crass political and economic considerations, that are irrelevant to the deliberations and to the sworn duty of a court of law.

No to political expediency

By Rep. Oscar S. Moreno
1st District, Misamis Oriental

The country doesn't seem to run out of issues that cause our people to engage in a debating frenzy. One such issue is whether President Macapagal-Arroyo should allow former President Joseph Estrada to leave for the United States for medical treatment.

Malacañang officials insist that it was out of "humanitarian compassion" that the Palace will not object to moves by Estrada's lawyers to ask the Sandiganbayan to allow him to travel to the US. They said he should be allowed to be treated by a doctor of his choice. Other officials said this was part of the total reconciliation efforts of the President to reach out to the opposition.

But other people see it as a ploy to get more votes because Ms Macapagal is running in next year's elections and to appease Estrada supporters who are at the forefront of protest rallies and destabilization moves.

I join the people who are opposed to allowing Estrada to leave for the US for medical treatment. If health is his concern, he can be treated in the Philippines and the doctor of his choice can be asked to come over.

I have signed a House resolution opposing Estrada's travel to the US. Signatories to the resolution feel that there should be no delay in the trial of Estrada on plunder and graft charges. Otherwise, it would be denying the people justice.

I object to the President intervening in the issue of Estrada's travel because it is solely a judicial issue that should be left to the Sandiganbayan. Estrada's lawyers have a pending request for medical travel before the court. Any pronouncement of the President on the matter could be misconstrued as an attempt to influence the decision of the anti-graft court.

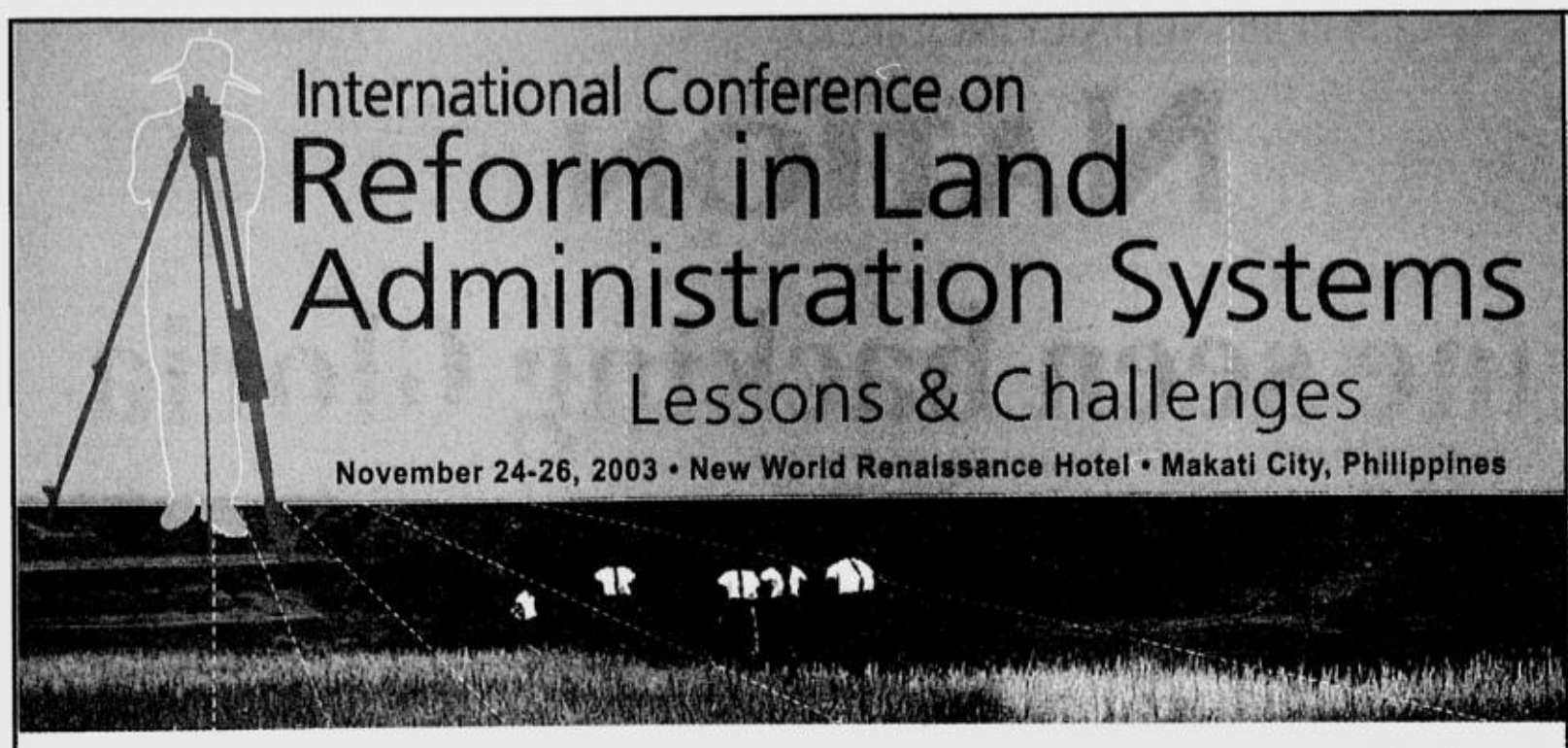
With elections only six months away, it is easy to link Ms Macapagal's move to the polls. There is a perception that Ms Macapagal is "weak" among the masses. It is therefore very tempting for the President to court the support of Mr. Estrada given his popularity. Even if Ms Macapagal does not get the support of Estrada, if he just stays neutral, it would be good enough for the President.

The President, through her gesture could be seen as magnanimous. But she will have compromised her duty to uphold the law in favor of political expediency.

She will also disappoint her supporters during Edsa II, who are insisting that her administration pursue her commitment to bring Estrada to justice. Any delay in the plunder trial, which could come if Estrada leaves for the US, could be interpreted that she has turned her back on her commitment.

It is also incorrect to say that since Estrada has not yet been convicted, the government should be soft on him. His trial, in fact, is taking time because of the dilatory tactics that he has resorted to.

By her gesture of not posing any objection to Estrada's travel to the US, the President could be virtually giving pardon to the former President because he would be allowed to go even before his trial is concluded. The President should be reminded that the power of pardon could only be exercised after conviction. What you cannot do directly cannot be done indirectly.



International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems

Lessons & Challenges

November 24-26, 2003 • New World Renaissance Hotel • Makati City, Philippines

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is hosting an **International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems: Lessons and Challenges**. This activity is being undertaken in cooperation with the World Bank and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) as part of the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP).

The Conference aims to:

- Present and discuss lessons and challenges in the reform programs on land administration and management in Asian countries;
- Launch, disseminate and discuss the key recommendations of the World Bank Policy Review Research contained in the report "Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction," and
- Provide a forum for stakeholders in the Philippines to appreciate the options to reform land administration and management in the Philippines and to build stakeholder support for the proposed changes

Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver the keynote speech at the Conference. Other speakers include DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun, Her Excellency, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pearce, and World Bank Country Director Robert Vance Pulley.

A total of 250-300 participants are expected to attend the Conference. Government officials and stakeholders involved in land titling projects in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Ghana, El Salvador, Thailand, and the Philippines are also invited. They are expected to present their work, share their experiences and learn from the other countries' experiences, particularly the Philippine experience of placing strong emphasis on civil society involvement in the reform initiative.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Day 1 • Monday • 24 November 2003

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Registration**

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Opening Ceremonies**

Welcome Address
Hon. Elisea G. Gozun
Secretary, Department of Environment & Natural Resources

Opening Address
On Behalf of the World Bank
Mr. Robert Vance Pulley
World Bank Country Representative
On Behalf of the Australian Government
Hon. Ruth Pearce
Ambassador, Australian Embassy in Manila

Keynote *Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo*

10:30 am – 11:00 am **Press Conference** (Renaissance Room)

11:00 am – 12:30nn **Paper Presentation1: Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction**
Mr. Klaus Deininger
Lead Economist , World Bank

Open Forum

12:30 nn – 1:30 pm **Lunch Break**

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Panel Presentation and Discussion 1: Land Administration Reform – The Philippine Experience**
Land Administration Reform, Poverty Reduction & National Development
Mr. Romulo Neri
Director General, National Economic & Development Authority
The Land Administration & Management Reform Program
Atty. Mylene Albano
DENR Assistant Secretary and Executive Director, Land Administration & Management Project
Stakeholder response to the Land Administration and Management Reform Program
For the Basic Sectors
Hon. Oscar Francisco
National Anti-Poverty Commission
For the Private Sector
Mr. Florantino Dulalia, Jr.
President, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations

Open Forum

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm ***Regional View of World Bank Experiences in the Lands Sector***
Mr. Wael Zakout
Lead Operations Officer, World Bank and Task Manager for LAMP and Leader of WB's Thematic Team on Land Policy and Administration

Open Forum

6:00 pm - **Convenor's Night (Cocktails hosted by DENR)**

Day 2 • Tuesday • 25 November 2003

8:00 am – 8:30 am **Registration**

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Recapitulation of Day 1 Activities**

9:00 am – 12:30 nn **Panel Presentation and Discussion 2 : Land Administration Reform – Other Asian Countries Experiences**
Siphandone Sihavong
Land Administration Experience in Lao PDR
Sopha Suon
The Cambodia Land Management and Administration Project
H. Bertie Buddhisena
The Sri Lanka Land Titling Project
Do Duc Doi
The Vietnam Land Titling Project
Dr. Edwin Urresta
Land Law Program for Timor-Leste: Policy Development and Capacity Building in Land Administration

Open Forum

12:30 nn – 1:30 pm **Lunch Break**

1:30 pm – 5:00pm **Panel Presentation and Discussion 3 : Land Administration Reform - Comparative Studies**
Ms. Wanna Rakyao & Mrs. Emom Prasittisook
The Thailand Land Titling Project
Felix Garrid Safie
The El Salvador National Registry Project

Comparative Study of Global Land Administration Systems
Tony Burns
Managing Director, Land Equity, International and Project Coordinator, PA-LAMP

Open Forum

Day 3 • Wednesday • 26 November 2003

8:00 am – 8:30 am **Registration**

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Recapitulation of Day 2 Activities**

9:00 am – 12:00 nn **Panel Presentation and Discussion 4 : Land Administration Reform – Special Issues and Concerns**
Land Administration Reform and Social Development
Ms. Mary Racelis
Research Scientist and Former Director, Institute of Philippine Culture
Sustainability of Land Administration Projects
Dr. Ludmilla Kwitko
Gender & Development Advisor, AusAID

Open Forum

12:00 nn – 12:30 nn **Conclusions/Closing Ceremony**
Hon. Manuel D. Gerochi
Conference chair and Undersecretary for Lands, Department of Environment & Natural Resources

12:30 nn – 1:30 pm **Fellowship Lunch**

1:30 pm – onwards **Guided Tour of Intramuros (for foreign participants)**

The Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP)

In 1998, a joint fact-finding mission by the government and the World Bank identified problems in Philippine land administration. The mission set out a framework for a long-term Land Administration and Management Program. It aims to improve land tenure security by developing an efficient land titling and administration system based on effective policies and laws and supported by an appropriate institutional structure.

The Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP) was designed as a first step towards the Program. It aims to identify and test possible improvements to land administration and to develop new directions in policies and laws to reform land administration services.

LAMP is being implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Its partner agencies are the Department of Justice (DoJ)/Land Registration Authority (LRA), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

LAMP's One-Stop Shop in Palo, Leyte integrates the services of several land administration agencies into one office

It has funding support from the World Bank and technical assistance from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

LAMP has two prototypes where streamlined and cost-effective approaches are tested and put in place. The Prototype Implementation Office I seeks to improve the efficiency of administrative and judicial titling and to accelerate the registration and issuance of titles. It is being implemented in six municipalities in Leyte Province.

The Prototype Implementation Office II focuses on improving and mainstreaming land records management. It aims to increase confidence in the present land registration system through improved land records management. It is being implemented in five barangays in Quezon City.

The following are the expected benefits of LAMP:

- Production of new titles through the Prototypes
- Increased investment and land productivity through increased land tenure security
- Increased farm incomes and higher land values
- Financial sector development through increased confidence in land registration system and in use of land as collateral
- Institutional support for CARP, thus speeding up delivery of land titles to land reform beneficiaries
- Improved management of natural resources through new processes of identifying and marking forest boundaries
- Improved valuation framework, enhancing equity in taxation and compensation systems for land

The Project would also provide other benefits in the way of:

- Facilitating financial sector development through the recovery of confidence in the land registration system and in the use of land as collateral
- Coordinated institutional support for the CARP thereby speeding up the delivery of registered land titles to the beneficiaries of land reform
- Improvement in the management of natural resources by developing methodologies for delineating and marking forest boundaries
- Improvements in the valuation framework, which would enhance fairness and equity in taxation and compensation systems for land

LAMP's One-Stop Shop in Quezon City is soon to operate.

The Land Administration Reform Act (LARA)

The Land Administration Reform Act of 2003 or LARA aims to institutionalize reforms in land administration to enable the government's land administration agencies to further contribute to poverty alleviation and economic growth. The bills, House Bills 6070, 6255 and 6256 and Senate Bills 2592, 2593, 2608 and 2614 are now filed in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

One of the proposed reforms is the creation of the Land Administration Authority (LAA) that will merge the roles, functions, and services of the DoJ's Land Registration Authority (LRA) and Registry of Deeds (RoD), and the DENR's Lands Management Bureau (LMB)/Lands Management Service (LMS), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), and DENR-CARP Secretariat.

In February 2003, DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun and DoJ Secretary Simeon Datumanong signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a single land administration agency to spearhead the reforms required to create an efficient and effective land administration system.Presently, several separate government agencies perform land administration functions and services, resulting in the duplication of functions and the proliferation of spurious titles. Also, with the present institutional structure, reforms in the sector cannot be pursued in an integrated and holistic manner.

Several organizations and groups from the private sector (real estate brokers, property appraisers, bankers) and civil society (farmers, fisher folk, urban poor, workers in the informal sector, indigenous peoples, women, and NGOs) support the LARA.

The creation of the LAA is one of the policy recommendations of an institutional arrangements study led by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP), an inter-agency project of the Philippine government with funding support from the World Bank and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

Please address all comments and inquiries to:
The Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Email: lamp@denr.gov.ph
Website: www.phil-lamp.org
Tel. Nos. 925-2328; 928-1197 Fax No. 928-1195

MESSAGES

Office of the President
Malacañang

My warmest felicitations to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the World Bank, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP) for holding *the International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems: Lessons and Challenges*. I am confident that this event will be a substantial learning experience for all involved and help LAMP to achieve its goal of improving our country's land administration system.

As one of our administration's priority projects, LAMP supports the government's poverty reduction program. It promotes economic development by strengthening the security of tenure to land and fosters efficient land markets in rural and urban areas through the development of an efficient system of land titling and administration.

I commend the people, government agencies, partner agencies, civil society groups, private sector groups, and funding agencies behind the project for their commitment to reform the Philippine land administration system.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

My warmest greetings to the organizers of and participants in the **International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems: Lessons and Challenges.** The conference theme we have chosen for this landmark event for our lands sector, ***"Reform in Land Administration"*** is in recognition of the role of land administration reform in economic growth through the development of an efficient system of land titling and administration.

Through this event, we seek to learn from the experience and lessons of other countries that have initiated the same reform. As the lead agency in the implementation of the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP), we commit to apply the best practices, thereby realizing the goals of the project.

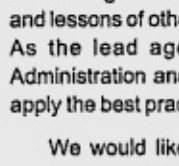
We would like to express our gratitude to our partners in government, the civil society, the private sector, the academe, and foreign donor agencies for supporting the project and its objectives and activities. We look forward to a more fruitful collaboration as we work together to bring about policy and institutional changes in the land administration system.

Finally, we commend the staff and officers of LAMP for their dedication and hard work in fulfilling the tasks that they are mandated to perform. May we all continue working together for the success of LAMP.

I wish the success of this international conference. *Mabuhay!*

ELISEA G. GOZUN
DENR Secretary
Lead Convenor

Office of the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines



I congratulate the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for organising this International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems, with support from the Government of Australia and the World Bank.

Australia is pleased to be associated with this event as a major funding partner through the Philippines-Australia Land Administration and Management Project. Through this project, we are assisting a key element of the Philippines' reform process. I welcome the initiative of the Philippine Government in convening a conference which will enable policy-makers and stakeholders from different countries to share their experiences. Australia strongly supports this kind of regional cooperation to achieve improved governance for poverty reduction.

I wish the organisers and conference participants every success.

RUTH PEARCE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Greetings to the foreign and local participants of the **International Conference on Reform in Land Administration Systems: Lessons and Challenges.**

For three years now, I have worked closely with the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP). I have always supported its goals and agenda of reforming the Philippine land administration. I believe this event is a good opportunity for LAMP to learn from other countries' reform experiences, as well as to share its own reform lessons. It is also a good venue for our policy makers and implementers in lands sector to learn from the experiences of other participants in the conference.

Thank you to the people and agencies that helped us organize and prepare for this very important event. We hope to work with you again in our future activities.

May this conference be a success. *Mabuhay alahat!*

MANUEL GEROCHI
Undersecretary
Conference Chair

ADVT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2003

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Joson, Balane seen backing Gloria

By Anselmo Roque, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CABANATUAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III and the dominant party in the province, Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) are ready to support the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

Joson answered in the affirmative questions on whether he and Balane would support Ms Macapagal in next year's elections.

"Yes," said Joson in a recent forum with reporters here aired over the provincial government-owned radio station dwNE.

Joson has said his party's support for Ms Macapagal would depend on the decision of the Nationalist People's Coalition, the party of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. but since all indications point to Cojuangco not running after all, Joson and his party are sure to support Ms Macapagal, said a Palace source.

Joson said Balane, the dominant political party in Nueva Ecija, has a standing coalition with the Nationalist People's Coalition, which also has a coalition with the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Balane was formed in 1987 by Joson's late father, Eduardo, who was governor of the province for 30 years.

Joson did not give any categorical answer when asked if the NPC, which has a standing coalition with the administration Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, would support Ms Macapagal.

Joson also denied reports that many of his party mates were joining Lakas. He said he has not authorized anyone to issue statements on party matters.

Cojuangco was one of Joson's sponsors in his silver wedding anniversary. He calls him "Ninong Danding."

In the same forum, Joson said his brother, former Gov. Eduardo Nonato "Edno" Joson, would be expelled from Balane if he failed to support the party's decisions.

Edno has publicly supported the presidential bid of former Sen. Raul Roco. Edno and Roco were seen together in various occasions in the province in the past months.

"At the moment, though, no action will be taken against him (Edno) as our party has no decision yet on whom to support (in 2004)," Joson said.

But sources here said Joson might not withdraw political support for his brother.

JOSON

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Samar gov't men file plunder rap vs ex-PEA exec

By Joey A. Gabieta, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—A group of government workers based in Calbayog City, Samar has filed plunder charges against former Philippine Estate Authority board member Rodolfo Tuazon before the Office of the Ombudsman in Manila.

The Union of Regular Government Employees (Urge) accused Tuazon of accumulating P90 million in unexplained wealth and of lying in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SAL).

Also included in the charge sheet filed on Wednesday were Tuazon's wife, Maria Paz and Schelma, Jose Victor and Rodolfo Jr.

Paz served as chief of staff of her husband during his term as congressman of Samar's first district from 1992 to 2001. His children served as members of his legislative staff.

But Tuazon said the plunder case was "politically motivated" and vowed to file libel charges against those who initiated the complaint against him.

Pedro Don Saborrido, Urge president, maintained that no politician was behind the move to file a plunder complaint against Tuazon.

"Our group is accredited by the Office of the Ombudsman as its eyes and ears against corruption committed by our officials," he said.

Unexplained wealth

In their six-page complaint, the Urge claimed that Tuazon had accumulated P90.43 million in unexplained wealth.

The group alleged that Tuazon's income as congressman and then PEA board member would not be enough for him to amass such wealth.

According to the group, Tuazon had P47,351,433.71 in investments at the real estate company ASB Group of Companies. His amended SAL dated Dec. 11, 2002, also showed that Tuazon's total assets were worth P43,079,819, the group said.

The Urge also said Tuazon did not include in his SAL the family's business interests and its source of investments at the ASB Group of Companies.

The group alleged that Tuazon gained "more or less P47,351,433.71" out of his business interests in the company.

The complainants noted alleged discrepancies between the SAL submitted by Tuazon on June 30, 2001, or the day his term as a congressman ended and his "amended" SAL on Dec. 11, 2002.

Receivables

Based on the June 2001 SAL that Tuazon submitted to the House of Representatives, he declared P814,500 "as receivables with a net worth of more than P19.19 million."

In the amended SAL, Tuazon declared a "staggering amount of P43,079,819," the group said.

The Urge pointed out that the two SALs, which were supposed to cover different dates, were both executed and sworn to on the same date, Oct. 17, 2002.

The Urge also said that before Tuazon was appointed to the PEA, his net worth was P19,198,400. On his amended SAL, Tuazon declared assets worth P43,079,819, an increase of more than P42.265 million.

"Respondent had not declared in his SAL his accounts or business transactions with the ASB Group of Companies . . . had not disclosed the sources of his investments of the aforesaid amounts of around P45 million. The presumption should therefore be that this was illegally acquired wealth," the complaint said.

But Tuazon told the INQUIRER through his mobile phone that the complaint was politically motivated meant to embarrass him.

"I know those who filed the case against me. They were the henchmen of Uy," he said, referring to his political rival, Rep. Reynaldo Uy.

In the 2001 congressional elections, Uy defeated Maria Paz by more than 800 votes.

Wrong venue?

Tuazon said the case should have been filed before the Bureau of Internal Revenue and not before the Ombudsman. "The nearest case that they can file against me could be for tax evasion and not for plunder," he said.

Tuazon said the money he invested at the ASB Group of Companies came from a loan he secured from his sister Ofelia David, whom he described as "very rich and is worth more than $200 million."

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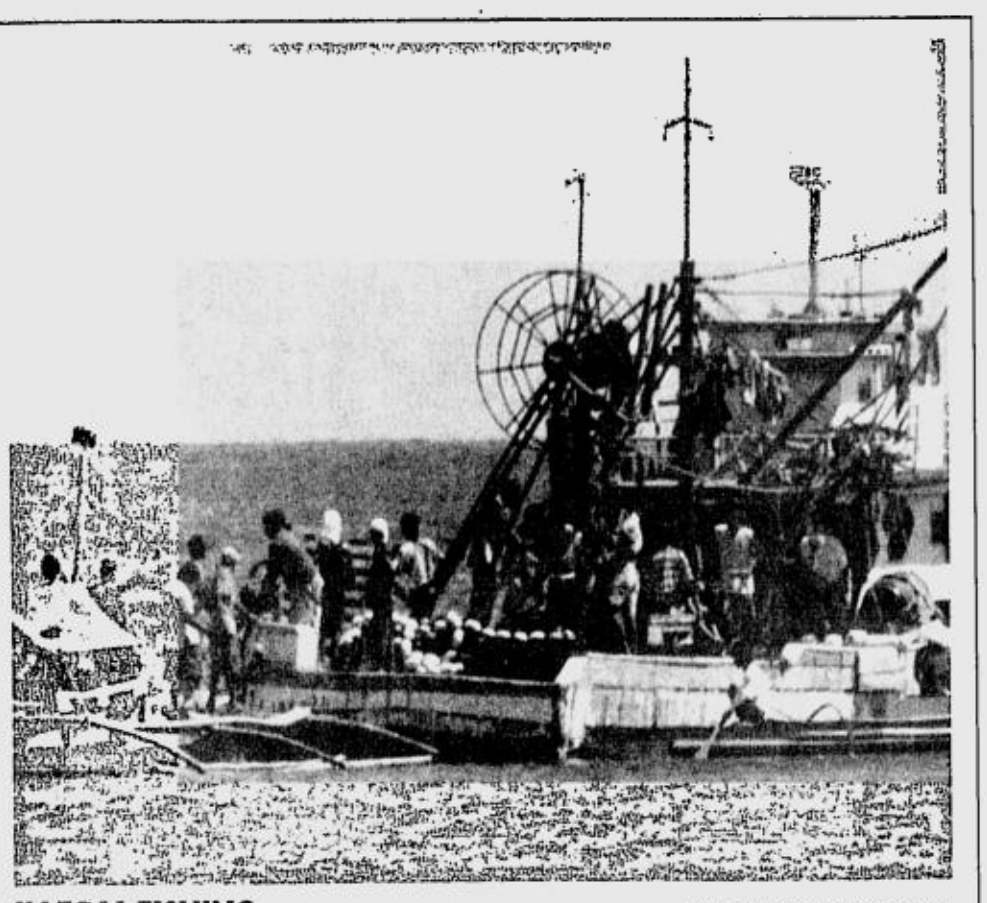
Tuazon said the case should have been filed before the Bureau of Internal Revenue and not before the Ombudsman. "The nearest case that they can file against me could be for tax evasion and not for plunder," he said.

Tuazon said the money he invested at the ASB Group of Companies came from a loan he secured from his sister Ofelia David, whom he described as "very rich and is worth more than $200 million."



ILLEGAL FISHING TONEE DESPOJO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

A group of fishermen engaged in banned fishing practices is arrested by Coast Guard personnel on board their fishing boat in Danao City. The group was trying to smuggle out their illegal catch and were cornered near the shores of Liloan town.

MYSTERIOUS DIGGINGS

Post office tunnels found

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost) has been investigating two sets of tunnels inside the old Baguio post office compound that have been dug by treasure hunters.

A 20-foot deep tunnel, that sinks and then branches off to an undetermined site underground, was uncovered in May by Antonio Reyes, new Philpost Cordillera director.

A private security officer informed him about the activities that occurred during the watch of lawyer Gerardo Viterbo, the man Reyes replaced.

A second tunnel, that was carved exactly like the Baguio post office tunnel, was uncovered on July 22 when typhoon Harurot tore open a fence beside a house and the Philpost cottage inside the Baguio post office compound, according to Delia Manaligod, postal police officer assigned to the city.

This tunnel also plunged to a depth of 27 feet, Manaligod reported to Postmaster General Diomedio Villanueva. It leads to a four-foot high tunnel that stretched to about 2 meters.

She said investigators have not yet validated the reasons for these tunnels, although she acknowledged that at least three banks, including the Postal Bank branch, are located in the area which the two separate underground tunnels appear to bisect.

"We are not speculating what the tunnels are for. All we know is that the tunnels were not authorized, and that these endanger the (50-year-old) Baguio Post Office Building near the Baguio Cathedral," said Mariano Lopez, Philpost Cordillera legal officer.

Villanueva had ordered an investigation of Viterbo and four other postal employees, including a geodetic engineer Viterbo hired as a postman. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CALL TO ACTION

Dahas Laban sa Kababaihan, Wakasan Batas Laban sa Karahasan, Ipasa Na!

November 25 of every year marks the start of a 16-day campaign when the world's attention is directed on violence against women and its elimination. Women in all countries, bar none, suffer from acts and threats of gender-based violence just because they are women. At a time when advances are being made in many areas of human lives, this shameful act persists as it is firmly rooted in unequal gender relations where men are allowed to have power and control over women's lives.

Gender-based violence is a reality for Filipino women. Consider these:

- The Philippine National Police reported 2,381cases of physical injuries and wife battering during the first semester of 2003, more than half, or 54.7 per cent, of the total number of reported VAW cases;
- During the first six months of 2003, the Department of Social Welfare and Development provided services to 3,471 women in especially difficult circumstances, mostly women victims of prostitution, illegal recruitment, battery, sexual abuse, armed conflict, and those in detention. 1,091 or 31.4 per cent, of the cases were on physical abuse or maltreatment and battering;
- One in every 10 cases of women in especially difficult circumstances was sexual abuse. Of these, 68.1 per cent were rape cases and 29.6 per cent were incest;
- The Commission on Filipino Overseas accounted for 1,013 recorded cases of human trafficking from 1993 to 2002, 64.5 per cent of which had women victims where 19.1 per cent were forced into prostitution; and
- The National Statistical Coordination Board presented the following data on the extent of VAW prevalence in the country: (a) almost 40 per cent of VAW cases in 1999 were physical injuries; (b) of these, 64 per cent were inflicted inside the home; (c) 65 per cent were inflicted through hands, fists or feet; (d) almost 50 per cent were inflicted by husbands, relatives, live-in partners and fathers; and (e) almost all perpetrators were male.

We at the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women maintain that VAW violates women's human rights. It destroys lives, ruins families and relationships, fractures communities. Our society cannot claim to be making real progress toward human development as long as its women confront gender-based violence in their daily lives.

Domestic violence and intimate partner abuse are VAW's most common forms. Here, the abusers are the husbands, live-in partners, and boyfriends, even fathers and other male relatives in cases of incest, sexual abuse and physical battering and maltreatment of children. The home ceases to be the sanctuary where women and children are supposed to feel the safest and most loved.

This is totally unacceptable.

Domestic violence and intimate partner abuse are public crimes against persons, not private issues of the family or intimate partners. They must be addressed by actions that help victims and survivors leave violent relationships and survive the ordeal as well as penalize VAW perpetrators and abusers.

Society's institutions must be one with Filipino women in this struggle. We specifically urge our legislators, both our local legislators and our senators, to recognize them as violations of our human rights that prevent us from participating fully in society and fulfilling our potentials as human beings. We thank our representatives in Congress for responding to our concern by passing the necessary bills. We call on our senators to do the same. Be one with us in this fight. Pass the bills against domestic violence and intimate partner abuse NOW. We, who are half of your constituents, deserve no less.

You can support the campaign by:

- *Becoming more aware of VAW, its consequences, and how to respond to it* by seeking more information on the issue. You can contact the NCRFW (tel. no. 735 1646) for information materials and links with other agencies and NGOs that address VAW.
- *Helping a victim or survivor,* should you happen to know one, by referring her to organizations with services for victims and survivors. The NCRFW has a list of these organizations all over the country.
- *Being an advocate* against VAW by speaking out against violence and ensuring that it is not an accepted part of life in your home, workplace and community.
- *Mailing or faxing letters of support and encouragement* addressed to our legislators and concerned government officials, or sending letters to editors and news desks;
- *Being involved in the advocacy campaign activities:* Contact the NCRFW or visit its website for the schedule of all activities during the campaign;
- *Inform us* of your organization's activities.

16-Day Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women

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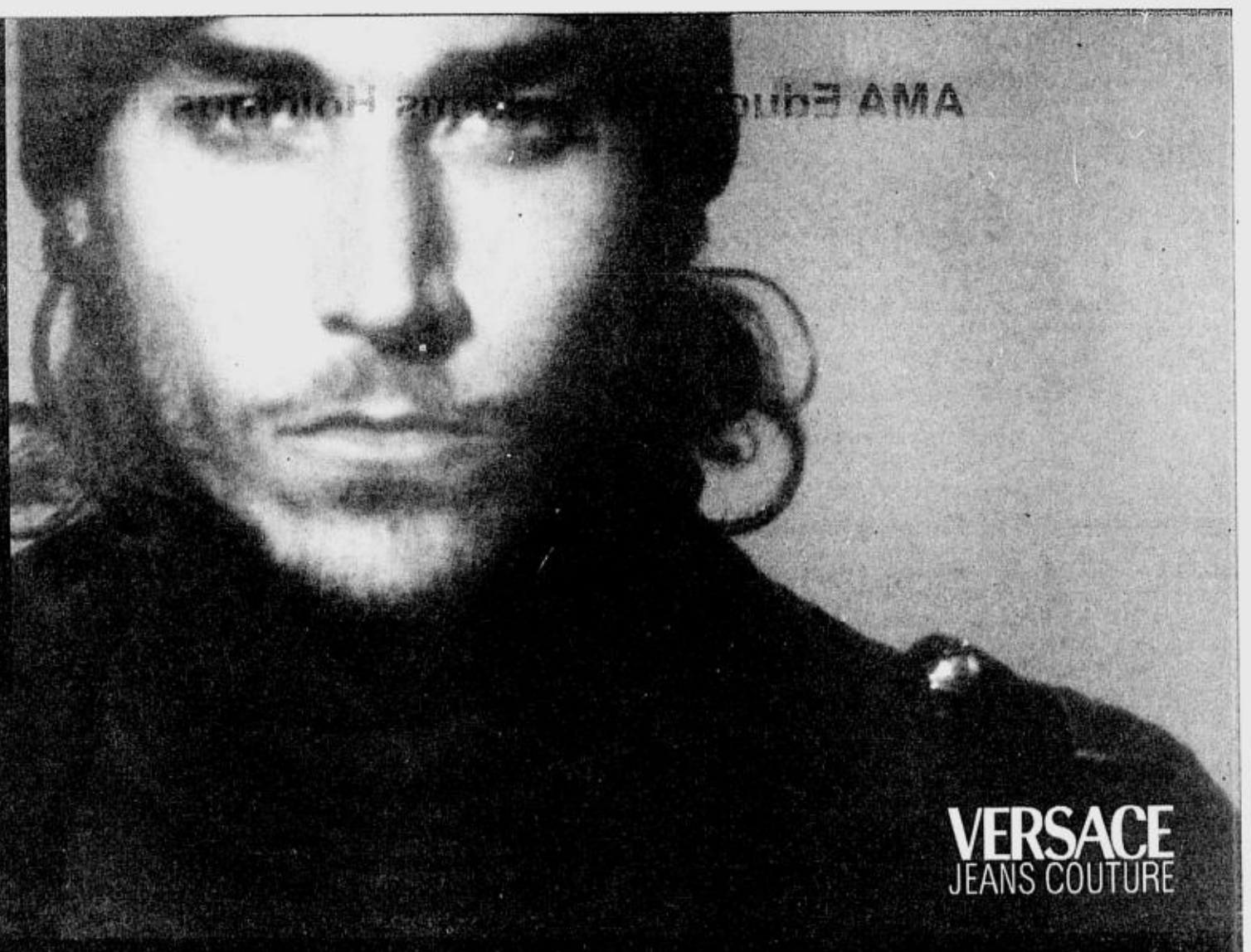

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PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 4776, Series of 2003

INQUIRER Mindanao
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Whitewater rafting takes leap in Mambuaya

ADVENTURE just way ahead for these rafters in Mambuaya. DAKILA ANGELES

By Ellen Red
Cagayan de Oro City

WASHING Machine. Surprise. Brave's Way. Rodeo. Kiss the Wall.

These are just few of the names given by river guides to the 14 rapids one has to traverse when one joins the whitewater rafting adventure in the Mambuaya River in Cagayan de Oro City.

The rapids indeed live up to their names, as I experienced during one such event.

One would be tossed and turned in the spin cycle of Washing Machine; be surprised at the rapids named, what else, Surprise; become fearless after crossing Brave's Way; feel like riding a wild bull in Rodeo; and sense adrenaline pumping while paddling hard to the left so as not to hit the rocky river wall to the right side in Kiss the Wall.

The sport derived its name from the white water at the tip as it swells and from the rubber boat used called a raft, says river guide Chisum Factura.

Commercial whitewater rafting has been experienced around the world for about 30 years. In Cagayan de Oro, it was started by a group of enthusiasts in 1995, says Rupert Domingo, the river guide of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she paddled through the rapids of the Mambuaya last year.

Thousands of people have traversed the river in the same thrilling way. Last year alone, about 600 people did so, says Domingo.

In my first ever venture into the sport, I was with 30 employees of Gothong Southern who culminated their strategic planning sessions through a whitewater rafting team-building activity.

With life jackets, helmets and paddles, we tested the waters after being given an orientation by the six guides on the basics of paddling and safety precautions, such as what to do in case someone slips out of the raft.

We traversed the 14 rapids, watched the panoramic view of the river's rocky walls and drips, untouched vegetation, and occasional snakes, and sidetracked into a cave.

After three hours of paddling, we reached the finish line, a big rock in the middle of the river where each participant made a "graduation" leap. Some of us suffered scratches, which, according to our guides, were part of the adventure.

The river

Mambuaya River is a 45-minute drive from the heart of Cagayan de Oro.

Ideal for whitewater rafting is the 12.32-km course from Sitio Aura in Barangay Mambuaya to Sitio Maasin in Barangay Kabula. The Mambuaya-Kabula course has 14 rapids.

Based on the International Scale of River Difficulty, the Mambuaya-Kabula course is at Class 4, meaning difficult, with Class 1 as easy and Class 6 "unrunnable."

Only a handful of people lives along the river, with only eight houses in view.

Engaging in whitewater rafting is a way to protect the environment, says river guides Factura and Domingo.

"They will not only enjoy it, they will also know the need to protect the environment," said Factura. "From beginning to finish, *walang basura. Mahihiya kang magtapon ng basura* (no trash. You will be ashamed to throw garbage)," said Niecyl Rabor, internal audit manager of Gothong Southern.

Mindanao's most prolific artist starts to rise

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Butuan City

ANYONE who wants to know an artist and cultural worker in Mindanao must get close to Richard Belar, known to his colleagues as the most prolific and versatile theater practitioner.

The Butuanon but Davao City-based stage director, actor, choreographer, playwright, designer, trainer and researcher literally spread himself far and wide to the four corners of the island to answer the needs of pub-

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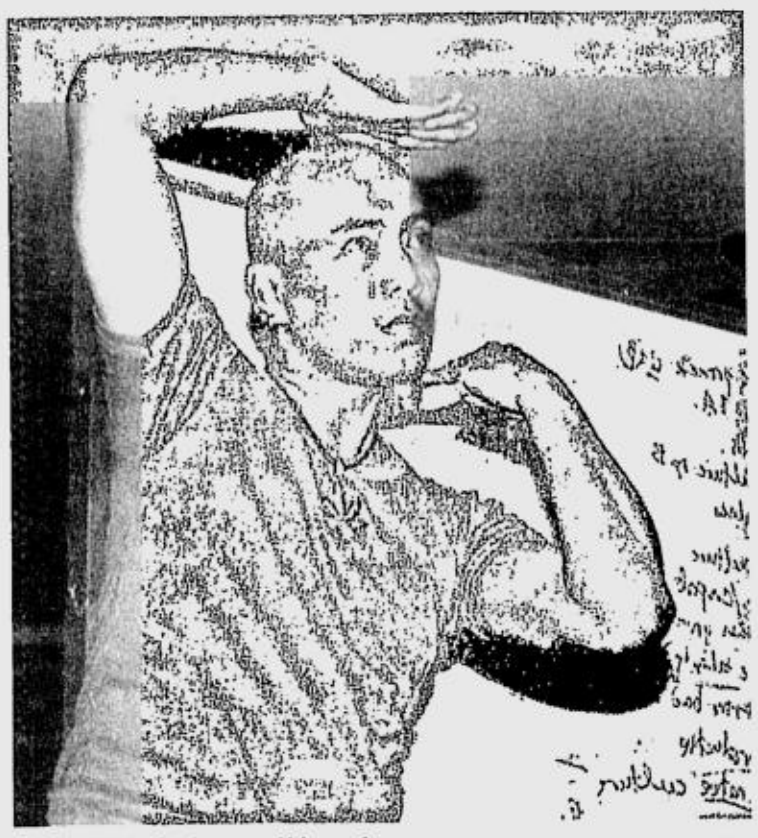
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3621 Series of 2003

Mindanao's most prolific artist starts to rise

From page A20



RICHARD Belar in one of his performances. OMAR ARELLANO

lic and private institutions on artistic and cultural concerns.

This late, he shuttles from Davao City to Butuan City to Pagadian City to mount major stage productions—all during the same month.

Just how many minor and major plays he has done since he started in 1980s, he has no idea. "I'm not fond of counting them. Do I have to? All I know is that I love doing what I do."

Friends swear Richard can't tell day from night when he is working.

He has done all kinds of productions—from Lent and religious presentations to straight dramas, musicals, comedies, fashion shows, beauty pageants, street plays and protests. He has worked with theater artists from Australia and other countries.

Local, global

A true son of Mindanao (his father is a Manobo from Agusan del Sur), yet he has carved a name as a local artist with a global background. Every now and then, he flies to Europe, Southeast Asia and Australia, the US and Canada to perform and conduct Mindanao theater.

His company, the Kaliwat Theater Collective, performs in universities, religious and tribal communities and Filipino organizations. Its repertoire consists of Mindanao's tri-people stories.

Richard's passion remains in the heartland of Mindanao. His energy and enthusiasm remains strong and unshaken as that of a young aspiring artist but with a veteran perspective. He credits this influence to Nestor Horfilla whom he considers his mentor (Horfilla became National Commission for Culture and the Arts chair for dramatic arts).

Richard's awakening as an artist starred when he was a child. "I watched a religious play of Fr. Dong Galenzoga and I was struck. For days, I was mesmerized."

That led to his active involvement in the performing arts in high school and college. As a member of the highly acclaimed MSU Sining Kambayoka, he rose from actor to assistant director to community cultural organizer. It was here that he realized that theater was not just entertainment but a medium to expose social and political ills and conditions.

"I began to see that arts and the artists have an important role in an imbalanced society and seeing myself as an artist-educator, I vowed to do my role well," he said.

One with the tribes

In Kaliwat, Richard plunged deeper into the cultural landscape by being with the tribal communities of Cotabato and Zamboanga in their struggle for land and traditions.

"My journey back with the tribal people has a big part of what I am now," he said with pride.

Richard is not the kind who limits himself when it comes to learning. When there are no plays to mount or workshops to conduct (which is rarely), he volunteers in allied projects, such as research and documentation.

"This is good because it enhances and sharpens my knowledge, and can be a background source of material," he said.

What is his view on the island's arts and culture scene?

"Artists must not only hone their craft but must be grounded to the realities around us. We should also reach out to other sectors particularly the public institutions so we can learn from each other as partners. There should be room for compromises.

"Mindanao's cultural scene has always and will always be dynamic and this is the reason we need more young artists and cultural organizers who will give fresh and equally dynamic perspectives."

The challenge, according to Richard, is to be active and substantive.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4938, Series of 2003

Whatever Happened to Family Planning Funds?

Today marks the start of Population and Development Week. In a season of budget hearings and political positioning, we the undersigned, deem it fit and proper to ask for ***a full accounting of fund allocations meant for family planning.***

We ask this in light of persistent reports that the Department of Health (DOH) has constricted individuals' and couples' choices to natural family planning methods only – with nary a cent being spent for contraceptive procurement and contraceptive self-reliance programs. This, despite the fact that the US is currently phasing out its contraceptive donations, which account for 80% of family planning supplies in the country.

We ask this because, despite the claims by the DOH that it shall not limit the availability of modern family planning methods, it has dedicated the P60 million Family Planning budget, which has been provided since 2000 under the General Appropriations Act, exclusively to the promotion of natural family planning. We also want to know why the P36 million budget, which Congress has provided the Department in 2001 for the procurement of family planning supplies, is not being used for this purpose.

We ask this because saving lives and respecting the right of individuals and couples to choose from a basket of legal and medically safe contraceptive methods are being used less and less as bases for family planning and reproductive health programs – programs that could mean life or death to mothers, infants, and adolescents. Rather, decisions on these matters are increasingly based on what appeals to conservatives.

We ask this because funding the burgeoning needs and demands of our ever-increasing population – which now stands at 82 million and continuously grows with 1.8 million persons added per year, or three persons per minute – is becoming ever more difficult with our already limited national budget.

According to 1998 data, each year, more than 3,000 mothers die from pregnancy-related causes, and 60,000 infants die before they reach the age of one. As we continue to neglect the family planning needs of our people, we can expect these numbers to rise even more. Because of this, there will be more unplanned pregnancies, more closely spaced births, and larger family sizes. The more than 400,000 cases of abortion occurring annually will also increase.

We therefore call on the Department of Health to:

- **Make a full accounting of the Family Planning funds amounting to at least P260 million since 2001!**
- **Immediately use funds intended for contraceptive procurement and promotion to address the needs of various regions!**
- **Outline a concrete program and budget for contraceptive self-reliance!**

Dr. Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr.
President
Friendly Care Foundation, Inc.

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Representative
Lone District of Aurora Province

Gilbert C. Remulla
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2nd District of Cavite

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Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP)

Bishop Fred Magbanua
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Makati to launch first e-court in RP

By Margaux Ortiz

CAN IT get any more high-tech than this?

Plans for the construction of the country's first-ever electronic court, showcasing a child witness room, computer-aided transcription machines, a trial court website, and electronic linkages to the Supreme Court, are already underway.

According to the memorandum of agreement recently signed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Supreme Court administrator Judge Presbitero Velasco, the pilot project will initially be implemented in one of the family courts of the Makati Regional Trial Court, specifically Branch 140 with Judge Leticia Morales.

Family court judges hear cases of adoption, legal separation, child custody, annulment and child support. Frequently, children are called on to testify in court.

Pimentel has pledged to provide P2 million for the program, which is geared towards the computerization of the judiciary for the speedy administration of justice.

The Makati City government will also give P2 million for the project, which is expected to be completed next year.

Judge Morales, in a phone interview, said she was "very excited about the project."

"I've been requesting for a separate child witness room for two years now, and it turns out that I have been given an additional bonus," Morales said, referring to the transcription machine, website and electronic linkages.

Morales said that without a child witness room, they have been forced to make necessary alterations in the family courtroom setup.

"We would usually put the suspect at the back of the courtroom so the child could not see (the suspect) and be traumatized," Morales said.

With the child witness room equipped with video conferencing, the minor could stay in an isolated area with his parent or guardian while testifying in front of a video camera.

Morales said that because the suspect also has the right to see his or her accuser, the courtroom will be equipped with a monitor as well.

Morales added that the computer-aided transcription machines would enable automatic conversion of data, while the trial court website would post the status and schedules of filed cases.

"Through these innovations, the entire court proceedings—from the filing, docketing, transcription and retrieval—will be computerized and easily be made available to the public," Morales said.

She also added that through electronic linkages, the Supreme Court could also witness the trials and take note of the court's proceedings.

Morales said the SC could then monitor if the courts are "on the right track or dilly-dallying on their disposition of cases."

A justice hall that feels, looks like a mall

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE NEW justice hall in Caloocan City feels and looks like a shopping mall. And that's because it was initially designed to be one.

The three-story City Judicial Complex is equipped with escalators. And the courtrooms were originally meant to be commercial stalls.

The P200-million building will house the 17 courts in the city which, for several years now, have been renting offices in three different buildings. Local offices of the Department of Justice will also be housed on the third floor.

Though it was inaugurated on Thursday with Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide as guest, construction work on the building is not yet complete.

Several rooms are still being constructed in an extended portion of the building's second floor. That portion was originally designed as a parking area.

But the building's first floor will serve its original purpose: it will house shops and boutiques.

City Mayor Rey Malonzo said the judicial complex would be fully operational by late December or early January.

Construction of the building began about two years ago. The 5,300-square meter lot where the building stands was previously a public market and the city government wanted to put up a commercial center in its place.

But when the shopping mall was 75 percent done, Malonzo changed his mind and decided to turn the building into a hall of justice, city architect Roy Cordero told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

IN THIS newly constructed judicial complex in Caloocan City, court workers get to serve the cause of justice—and shop on the side. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Malonzo made the decision after the displaced vendors refused to transfer to the new building because of high rental fees.

Cordero then had to redesign the shopping mall and turn it into a judicial complex even if all the walls, escalators, public toilets and even parking area were already in place.

The building was financed through bond flotation, which the city government will have to pay in seven years. The revenues which would be earned from the shops on the first floor and the P10-million yearly budget in renting offices for the courts will be channeled to the payment of the bonds.

"It's good because now all the courts will be housed in just one building, unlike our present set-up where we rent out offices in different buildings," said court employee Helen Bongco, when she inspected the new offices.

Manila court workers still have no hall of their own

By Tarra Quismundo

STILL without a Hall of Justice of its own, Manila's courts remain crammed in the City Hall building, where court workers compete with old documents and court records for space.

And the promised justice hall, something that the country's capital has been lacking for the longest time, is still but a foundation. It's construction, which began almost two years ago—about the same time Caloocan City started building its own judicial complex—is proceeding at a snail's pace.

Site engineer Ferdinand Busog admitted it, saying the construction of the planned 12-story justice hall, which began in Jan. 2002, is being undertaken by 56 laborers and engineers.

The 6,470-square meter Hall of Justice site sits between Adamson University and Sta. Isabel College on Taft Ave., near the corner of T.M. Kalaw Ave.

Project engineer Romelito Fabul said that the construction has been "irregular," and that the last phase of the construction, when the actual building will be built, has yet to be awarded to a contractor.

Busog said that they even sought a month-long extension to complete phase two of the project at a cost of P112 million.

The justice hall construction, a P1.5-billion three-phase project, is supervised by the Department of Justice, which is mandated by law to construct halls of justice in the country's cities and municipalities.

The Hall of Justice is supposed to house Manila's courts, which has the biggest jurisdiction with 56 regional trial courts and 30 metropolitan trial courts, the clerks of court offices, the city prosecutor's office, and other judicial offices.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is the implementing agency, while ITP Construction is the firm currently laying the foundation of the building.

Fabul said that the construction of the building, which has a design reminiscent of the Supreme Court structure on Padre Faura Street, is spread over a four-year period.

Until then, Manila's court workers will have to wait.

"We should have a hall of justice," said Roma Ortiz, branch clerk of court of Manila RTC branch 41. "Our facilities are really bad. During hearings the courtroom gets overcrowded... too hot and smelly."

In her office at the fourth floor of Manila City Hall, the court workers do their paperwork on dilapidated tables.

"Sometimes lawyers would excuse themselves because they would get dizzy from the heat," Ortiz said.

Stand-up comic's next gig: QC RTC

By Tina Santos

STAND-UP comedian John Lapuz and the executive producer of the television talk show "The Buzz" are facing a libel suit and may wind up in a Quezon City regional trial court for allegedly depicting a couple as con artists in a segment of the show aired last year.

In a two-page resolution, Assistant Prosecutor Joel Atanacio found probable cause to indict Lapuz, one of the reporters of the program, and executive producer Louie Andrada.

LAPUZ

The case stemmed from the complaint of Enrique and Geraldine Locsin, who claimed that Lapuz and the show's producer depicted them as "con men" in a segment of the show that featured Sheila Ysrael aired on May 5, 2002.

In the segment, Lapuz reportedly said Ysrael bought from the couple a piece of property which the Locsins developed and sold allegedly without the proper license from the National Housing Authority.

Lapuz reported that "according to Sheila Ysrael, Enrique and Geraldine Locsin did not obtain any license from NHA to develop and sell the property.

"*Mag-ingat kayo sa mag-asawang yan* (Locsins) *huwag kayong magpapaloko* (Be careful of the Locsins, don't let them fool you)," Lapuz said during the show.

During the preliminary investigation, Lapuz and Andrada reportedly failed to submit counter-affidavits despite due notice.

Bail for the two is set at P10,000 each.

Robbers strike again on Quirino

A BUSINESSWOMAN whose car windows were rolled down while she waited for the red light to turn green on Quirino Avenue in Manila lost over P500,000 to a robber who took her bag on Wednesday.

The robbery incident took place a day before Christopher Reyes, nephew of beauty expert Ricky Reyes, was gunned down in the same area by robbers who tried to take the victim's cellular phone.

Both Reyes and Dolores C. Paredes, the woman who lost her bag, were smoking and had their windows down when they were attacked.

SPO1 Celso Tan said that he alone has handled around 20 complaints involving Quirino Ave. robbers.

Paredes, 49, of Makati City, told Tan that she was smoking in her car when a man reached inside, grabbed her bag and tossed it to another man on the corner of South Superhighway and Quirino Ave., at around 7 a.m. Wednesday.

She and her driver tried to look for the suspects but were turned away by the barangay chairman, Aladin Monleon.

Leila Salaverria

KASALAN SA INTRAMUROS
PDI Chair Marixi Prieto (second from left), with Dominador Ferrer of the Intramuros Administration, and Robert Lane of the Intramuros Foundation, formally opens the Kasalan Sa Intramuros—the 10th and final leg of the Kasalan Filipino National Bridal Fair Roadshow. ROGER MARGALLO

METROBRIEFS

2 men held for Binondo slay

THE WESTERN Police District is holding two men in connection with the robbery and killing of Tian Sheng Chen in Binondo on Friday. Senior Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling said Richard Lopez, the alleged gunman, surrendered to WPD Station 3 lawmen after learning that the police were looking for him. The second man, Bernie Solis, 29, was arrested outside his house. Insp. Cesar Tubog said a witness has identified both Lopez and Solis as the two men who attacked Tian. But Solis denied he was involved in the killing. Tian, 51, had just withdrawn around P2 million from a Binondo bank when two men grabbed his bag and shot him in the chest. *Leila Salaverria*

Man stabs own son

ZUSIMO Pestano yesterday claimed he was tired of being beaten up by his son, Luis. On Friday night, Zusimo, 63, was arrested after he used a kitchen knife to stab Luis, 37, inside their house in Marikina City. Police said Luis is now fighting for his life at the Amang Rodriguez Hospital. PO2 Glenn Aculana said Luis was stabbed when he tried to break up a fight between his father and mother at 11:45 p.m. But Zusimo told the police that his son, an alcoholic who beat up his father whenever he was drunk, tried to hit him again that night. "I'm sorry at what happened, but I have had enough of his beatings," the father said from behind bars. *Luige del Puerto*

Shot in the face

WHO IS this woman and why was she killed? Police are investigating the killing of a woman, identified only as "Len-len," while she was visiting someone at the Baseco compound in Port Area, Manila on Friday. Her companion, Victoria Reyes, 45, a housewife from Las Piñas, was wounded. PO3 Rodelio Lingcong said Len-len and Reyes went to the Baseco compound to talk to a certain Dicson. At around 6 p.m., shots rang out. Len-len was shot in the face and killed. Reyes survived a gunshot wound in the neck. *Leila Salaverria*

Librarians hold congress

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) will celebrate the 69th National Book Week from Nov. 24 to 28. This year's theme is "Aklat at Aklatan: Kaagapay sa Aktibong Karunungan Tungo sa Pambansang Kaularan." Dr. Linda Tayona, professor of library science at the Philippine Normal University, is chair of this year's celebrations. One of the activities is a national congress of the PLAI and National Committee on Libraries and Information Services from Nov. 26 to 28 at the Manila Pavilion Hotel on UN Ave. The theme of the congress is "Bridging the Digital Divide: Harnessing ICTs for National Development, a Challenge to Information Professionals."

NCRPO: Crime wave meant to embarrass GMA

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

IT'S ALL linked to the 2004 elections.

Police officials yesterday announced that the series of high-profile crimes committed last week were "designed" to embarrass the present administration.

Earlier, members of anti-crime groups said that the crime wave now sweeping the country could be masterminded by politicians seeking to raise campaign funds.

A police insider told the INQUIRER yesterday that the spate of crimes were meant to destabilize the government and, consequently, cut down the chances of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the polls next year.

The source, who is close to top police officials of the National Capital Region Police Office, said that they noticed a "concerted effort to create a situation where there is a breakdown in law and order under the (Macapagal government)."

On Monday, kidnappers abducted Coke executive Betty Sy and later dumped her dead body on President Diosdado Macapagal Ave.

Three days later, a Chinese school student was abducted in Paco, Manila. The kidnappers shot the girl's nanny and driver.

The latest kidnapping was the 13th case reported this year, according to an NCRPO statement.

NCRPO director Reynaldo Velasco, while still on official leave, yesterday ordered the deployment of 300 more policemen to secure the malls and schools in the metropolis to thwart further kidnappings.

But Ernesto Belen of the NCRPO directorial staff admitted that the 17,000-strong police force is not enough to cover the entire metropolis.

He echoed Velasco's earlier call that the NCRPO be allowed to hire 10,000 new policemen to serve the 12 million residents in the metropolis.

Belen said the present police-population ratio in Metro Manila stands at one policeman for every 809 people. The ideal ratio observed in other countries is one policeman for every 500 urban residents.

Belen said they are tapping school security guards and barangay watchmen to support the police in securing the metropolis. He also maintained that, despite the lack of policemen, the NCRPO had recorded a 95.6 percent crime solution efficiency rate from January to October this year.

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Alapag's parents plan to file case against Torion

By June Navarro

FOR breaking their son's nose, the parents of Talk 'N Text guard Jimmy Alapag are planning to sue Red Bull Barako playmaker Jimwell Torion.

The threat of a court case against the 5-foot-8 Torion was revealed yesterday by Alapag's handlers a day after the Red Bull mainstay was slapped with a P70,000 penalty and an eight-month suspension without pay by the PBA Commissioner's Office.

"Jimmy is such a good guy and he didn't deserve what Torion had done to him. He doesn't want to talk about a court case and told us that he'll just sleep it over," said Sarah Dela Rosa, Alapag's manager and adviser.

"But his mother called up, saying that a case must be filed if only to teach Torion a lesson and send a message that things like those don't belong in basketball," she added.

No player has been sued for inflicting injury, whether intentional or not, on a rival cager since the PBA started in 1975.

Alapag, whose elders are in the United States, is recuperating from the surgery to repair his nose, which was fractured by Torion's clothesline tackle during their quarterfinal knockout game last week.

Dela Rosa said Alapag had expressed his desire to see action against Coca-Cola today but Talk 'N Text officials advised him to rest instead.

Meanwhile, Red Bull Barako acting team manager Tony Chua said they would appeal Torion's eight-month suspension from February to September next season.

An INQUIRER source said that under PBA rules, Torion should have been penalized with no more than a five-game suspension without pay.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Torion for comment but the Cebuano playmaker had turned off his cell phone.

Torion stands to lose at least P2.2 million in salaries for the eight-month ban on top of the P70,000 fine he should immediately pay to the Commissioner's Office.

Chua, who tendered his courtesy resignation to team owner George Chua along with the Red Bull coaching staff led by Yeng Guiao last Thursday, said they would appeal for a shorter suspension period.

ALAPAG

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Tigers slightly picked vs Pals

San Mig battles SLR

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:00 p.m.—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

TALK 'N TEXT and Coca-Cola, the All Filipino finalists this season, decide this time who gets to the championship playoffs of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference starting today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals and the Tigers open their best-of-five semifinal series at 6:30 p.m. with Coke slightly favored to prevail over the TNT squad that took the All Filipino crown for its first ever title in the league last June.

San Miguel Beer and Sta. Lucia Realty collide in the other semifinal series earlier at 4 p.m. with the Beermen going into the match well-rested unlike the other three teams bidding to reach the finals.

The Beermen booked the first semifinal ticket last week at the expense of the FedEx Express while the Phone Pals and the Tigers downed their opponents only in Game 3 of their respective quarterfinal meetings.

The Phone Pals stunned tournament favorite Red Bull Barako while the Tigers came back from the brink of an upset to eliminate Barangay Ginebra and frustrate its legion of fans.

But instead of feeling rejuvenated as they remained on track for a fourth straight Finals' appearance, the Tigers concede they are dead tired.

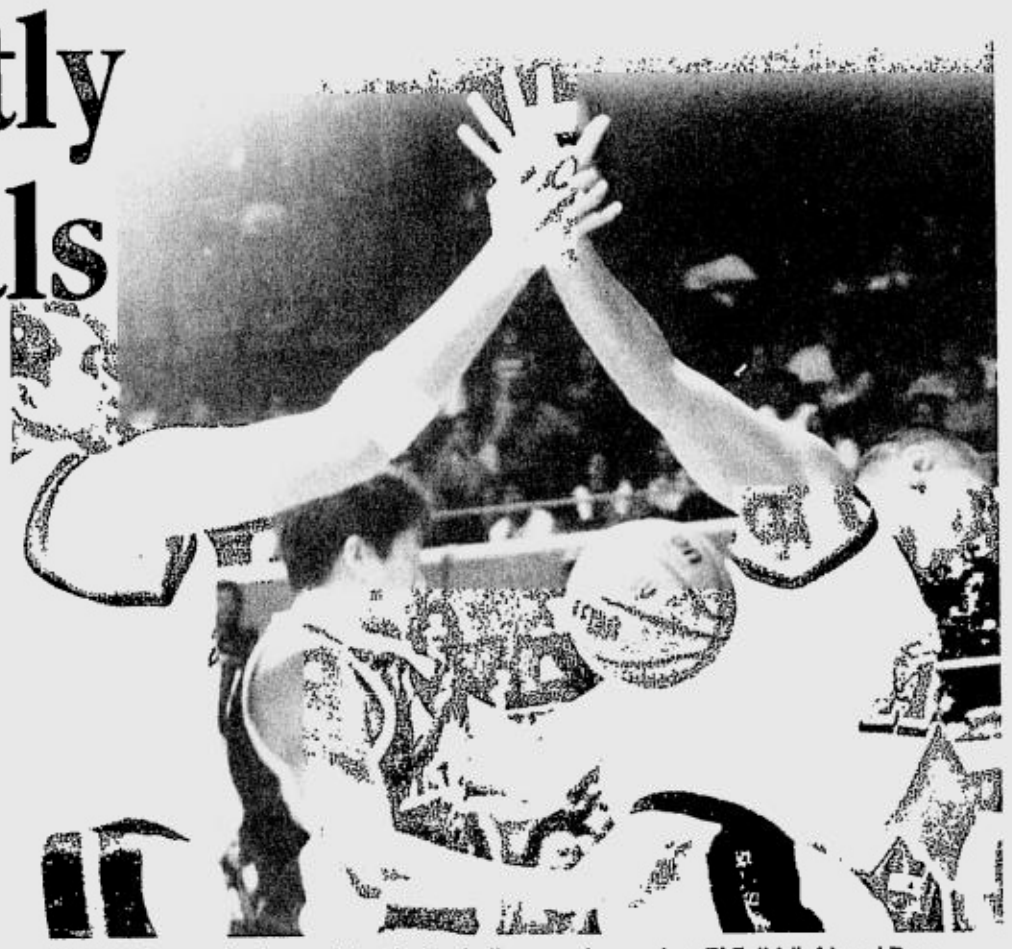
"I'll make a confession. Part of me wanted this thing to be over. I'm so tired, my players are tired and in fact, *halos wala na kaming* (we practically don't have any) energy *sa* practice," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

"But it's just a matter of finding energy within ourselves. Let's see how far we can go," he added.

An interesting twist in the TNT-Coca-Cola encounter, however, is the matchup between Reyes and Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, the two top contenders for the coach of the year award.

It will also be a head-on collision between Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava and Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, leading candidates for the season MVP award, and best import nominees Tee McClary and Damien Cantrell.

Jimmy Alapag remains a doubtful starter after the TNT point guard got hit by a vicious clothesline from Red Bull's Jimwell Torion that fractured Alapag's nose during their knockout match last week.



KENNETH Duremdes (center) battles for ball possession against EJ Feihl (left) and Don Allado of Alaska during their knockout game Friday night. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Welcoat grabs PBL lead

GAMES TODAY (*San Juan Gym*)
2 p.m.—Montaña vs RP (exhibition)
4 p.m.—Sunkist vs Blu

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WELCOAT Paints, a team powered by mainstays of the SEAG-bound RP five, demolished as expected ICTSI-La Salle, 88-73, yesterday to claim the solo leadership in the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Except for a few instances when coach Leo Austria tried different combinations on the floor, the Paint Masters were hardly threatened in posting their fourth victory in five games.

Their only loss came at the hands of Fash Liquid Detergent (65-61) where they succumbed to pressure, according to Austria.

Allan Salangsang scored eight of his 10 points in the fourth quarter as Fash Liquid Detergent defeated Viva Mineral Water, 68-60, in the second game.

The Liquid Power nailed their second straight win to up their record to 3-2, while handing the Water Force their fourth loss in five games.

The Paint Masters regaled the big weekend crowd by flashing their individual skills in

WELCOAT/ A27

Pacquiao quitting at 30

By Roy Luarca

MANNY Pacquiao knows that the fame and glory he's enjoying now won't last forever. He's giving himself five more years before quitting boxing altogether.

"I'll stop fighting when I'm 30. I may be earning millions, but boxing is hard. My body needs rest by then," said Pacquiao during a phone interview with Startalk's Rosanna Roces and Butch Francisco yesterday.

Paquiao, acknowledged as the people's featherweight champion of the world after stopping Mexican legend Marco Antonio Barrera in 11 rounds in Texas recently, is turning 25 on Dec. 12.

In the interview, Pacquiao, who arrived to a hero's welcome Friday night, expressed his gratitude to the Filipino people for supporting him all the way.

With a bevy of activities, including a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo after a motorcade tomorrow and a victory party, lined up for him, Pacquiao won't be flying to his home in Gen. Santos City until Wednesday.

He'll relax for a while with his family at the Manila Hotel, courtesy of Ms Macapagal. Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, accompanied him in the United States, while his two sons are arriving from Gen. Santos today.

Among the hundreds who welcomed Pacquiao at the Naia Friday evening were Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Pampanga vice governor Mikey Arroyo, Naia general manager Ed Manda, GAB commissioner Emmanuel Palabrica and boxing chief Emmanuel Flores.

During the presscon at the airport, Pacquiao, the reigning International Boxing Federation superbantam titlist, revealed his plans of campaigning in the featherweight division, his ambition to become a multititled champion and the strengthening of the Manny Pacquiao Sports Foundation, which is on the lookout for future world-beaters in sports.

Tomorrow, Pacquiao will join Manila Mayor Lito Atienza in a flag-raising ceremony at the city hall before going around the metropolis in a motorcade held in his honor. The caravan will pass through Escolta, the University Belt, Buendia Avenue and Ayala Avenue before proceeding to Malacañang, where Pacquiao will have an audience with Ms Macapagal at 2 p.m.

Press secretary Milton Alingod arranged the courtesy call with former broadcaster Hermie Rivera and Wilson Tieng of Viva Sports and Solar Sports.

On Tuesday, Pacquiao will visit the House of Representatives where Speaker Jose de Venecia will confer him with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

More celebrations and awards await Pacquiao upon arrival in Gen-San on Wednesday.

If only the adulation could last forever. ***With a report from Salven Lagumbay***

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Arevalo ousts Santos, gains final

A LONG break from competition proved no hindrance for Czarina Mae Arevalo yesterday as she moved closer toward retaining her ladies singles title in the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco.

Arevalo, who slid to No. 4 in the Philta national rankings after taking a three-month respite from tournaments, beat top seed Anna Patricia Santos, 6-2, 7-6 (4), to forge a title showdown with second seed Alyssa Labay, who rallied past third seed Bien Zoleta, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Labay, playing for the first time in the Vietnam SEA Games next month, banked on her huge forehand to reach her third final in four tournaments this year. She lost to Santos in the Philta Open and Coca-Cola Open and was eliminated by Arevalo in the Hilado Cup semifinals.

Meanwhile, top seeds Rina Caniza and Jennifer Saret downed fourth seeds Labay and Zoleta, 6-3, 6-3, to reach the doubles finals of this event presented by Dunlop.

Caniza and Saret will face second seeds Santos and Arevalo, who scored a 6-1, 6-2 victory over unseeded Divine Escala and Josephine Paguyo.

PRESIDENTS CUP

US golfers move up

GEORGE, South Africa—As skies darkened late Friday, Tiger Woods stood over a 4-foot (1.2-meter) putt that was more about pride than a measly half-point in the Presidents Cup.

Just holes earlier, he missed a crucial putt from the same distance. And in the morning, he had endured his biggest loss in team competition.

"I don't know if I could have lived that down if I missed that one," Woods said.

Not to worry.

Woods buried the putt for a 1-up victory with Charles Howell III, the seventh victory out of 10 matches for the Americans on a day when they were the best from start to finish.

The result was a 9 1/2-6 1/2 lead over the International team, and loads of momentum going into the six better-ball matches Saturday afternoon.

"We were able to turn the momentum today, keep it going this afternoon," said Jim Furyk, who didn't have to play the final four holes in either of his two victories. "It was a big day for our team."

The Americans made sure there was no repeat of the disastrous opening session, when the International team rallied over the final three holes of the final three matches to steal 2 1/2 points and the early lead.

Meanwhile, Meg Mallon and Laura Davies each turned 40 this year. They wish that was all they had in common.

Mallon, Davies up

Shut out in the win column on the LPGA Tour this year, Mallon and Davies put themselves in position to break through at just the right time. The contemporaries moved into the lead at 2-under 142 on Friday after two rounds of the season-ending ADT Championships.

Mallon shot a 1-under 71 and Davies rallied from two early bogeys for a 69 to set up a Saturday pairing of two players with four second-place finishes and no wins between them this year on the LPGA Tour. *AP*

HOWELL III (left) and partner Woods celebrate their win. AFP

What about the others?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LIKE a boxer unleashing a two-fisted attack, a lot of people are scrambling for the chance to fete Manny Pacquiao. Left and right, the honors are being set for bestowal on the current toast of the boxing world.

I can only applaud. Pacquiao deserves all the kudos.

However, amid all the hoopla surrounding Pacquiao's spectacular victory over Marco Antonio Barrera on Sunday at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, we seem to be missing something also of equal import. I refer to the move to also honor the other sports heroes for feats they had similarly scored just weeks before Pacquiao ended Barrera's myth of indestructibility in the 11th round.

Listen up. Tomorrow, there will be a ticker-tape parade for Pacquiao not only in Manila but also in Makati. On top of that, Pacquiao will be a special guest of no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo in the Palace, also tomorrow.

Many more are lining up in the hope of giving an award to Pacquiao, the most prestigious being the Congressional Medal of Honor from Congress. No athlete has ever been accorded that.

Yet, Pacquiao's victory—save for the spectacular manner with which he achieved it—did not involve a world crown. Don't get me wrong. Pacquiao did the country proud with his win over Barrera, indisputably a great boxer whose legend is matched only by the likes of Arguello, Ortiz and Duran, among others. I stuck my neck out for Pacquiao and the rewards I got after his victory were more than enough to pay for my ration of coconuts and bananas in the neighborhood sari-sari store.

In short, what about the others—World Cup bowling champion CJ Suarez and Belgium World Chess Championship champion Eugene Torre?

The 24-year-old Suarez won in October in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, becoming only the second Filipino to win bowling's supreme trophy after Paeng Nepomuceno, the three-time winner whose last victory for the country came in 1996 in Northern Ireland.

Suarez got a 10-minute audience with the President and that was it. No incentive, no nothing.

The 52-year-old Torre won early this month that prestigious world chess crown in Leuven, Belgium, emerging unscathed with his 7-2 win-loss record that prompted lawyer Sammy Estimo to say, "Eugene is back in his element and expect him to score big in the Vietnam SEA Games."

They say Torre is old hat. But I say a diamond will always be a diamond. Almost indestructible like weed.

But was Torre given an audience with GMA upon his arrival? No. And no incentive, too. No nothing.

There were also others who recently brought honor to the name Filipino—world trio bowling champions Liza del Rosario, Liza Clutario and Cecilia Yap, and Jojo Cañare teaming up with CJ Suarez to power the Philippines to the overall country championships in the World Cup.

Like Suarez and Torre, no incentive, no nothing.

"And I heard the President gave some incentive to Delasin (golfer), Bata Reyes (billiards) and Pacquiao," rued CJ Suarez.

Again, don't get me wrong. What I am trying to say is, let's give credit where credit is due. And those mentioned above—from Pacquiao down—all deserve more than just our applause.

The tragedy of Torre, Suarez and his fellow world bowling champions was their feats were not covered by TV. In a way, one scoring a world-class triumph with the spotlight on him—as did Bata Reyes in Cardiff, Wales, a while back—makes him/her almost bigger than life itself. Pacquiao had that luxury in that the worldwide TV coverage of his victory made an impact that magnified the mystic and aura of one achieving something big on the world stage. Pacquiao scoring those stunning knockdowns against Barrera before the entire nation was like also seeing live on TV Bata Reyes sinking those magical shots in Cardiff to win the world billiards crown a couple of years or so ago. In full color, so incredibly beautiful.

My heart goes to Torre, Suarez, Cañare and the three lady bowlers for scoring one for their country—and next getting virtually nothing out of it.

No, it wasn't their fault that they won minus a TV coverage.

But yes, most athletes become heroes not thinking of the spotlight at all. Whether they'd get recognition for it or not, they never gave it a thought.

They were simply too busy doing it for their country.

***

FASTBREAK. As expected, the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am ended in smashing success yesterday at the Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite, thanks to the able leadership of Riviera president/CEO Commodore Danny Pizarro (ret.), who drew the usual praises from U-Bix Corp. top honcho Bert Bravo. As usual, Bert has committed to bankroll anew next year's fourth staging of the event. A vital cog in this year's edition of the event was Lee Altavas, Bert Bravo's new secret weapon. A glass to you, Lee, for a job well done. Cheers!

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Cantada-Tanpinco duo rules Pro-Am

By Jong Arcano

GERARD Cantada and JR Tanpinco now have a championship to highlight a long beautiful friendship that started when both were still amateurs.

Cantada, now a pro, and Tanpinco edged Ruel Bañares and Marvin Dumandan in a sudden-death playoff yesterday to become one of the youngest partnerships to capture the U-Bix National Pro-Am golf championship at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country CLub in Silang, Cavite.

Cantada's perfect drive on the playoff hole, the treacherous par-4 18th considered as one of the toughest finishing holes in local golf, proved to be the killer blow as Bañares found the middle bunker on his tee shot.

After Dumandan blasted to the left of the green and Tanpinco pitched short, Bañares made another bad pitch that sent the ball rolling 30 feet past the pin.

Cantada capped his brilliant play by lobbing his third shot over the bunker to within gimme distance and Tanpinco easily holed it in after Dumandan didn't even come close to nailing his long par putt.

The Bacolod-based Tanpinco had earlier bungled a four-footer for par on the same hole that could have given them the victory in regulation play.

The miss gave Gerard and JR a nine-over-par round of 80 and a tie with Bañares and Dumandan after 72 holes at 305 as the leading tandem after the third round faltered with an 82.

Ramil Bisera and Jay Bayron missed joining the playoff by a mere stroke with their closing 73 giving them third place at 306.

Defending champions Raul Miñoza and younger brother Paul closed out with a 78 and Jorge Abad and Michael Bibat shot 77 to share fourth place at 307.

The victory meant much more to the pro career of the 26-year-old Cantada, who actually came out of semi-retirement due to knee problems just to accommodate the 22-year-old Tanpinco, whom he had known since he was eight.

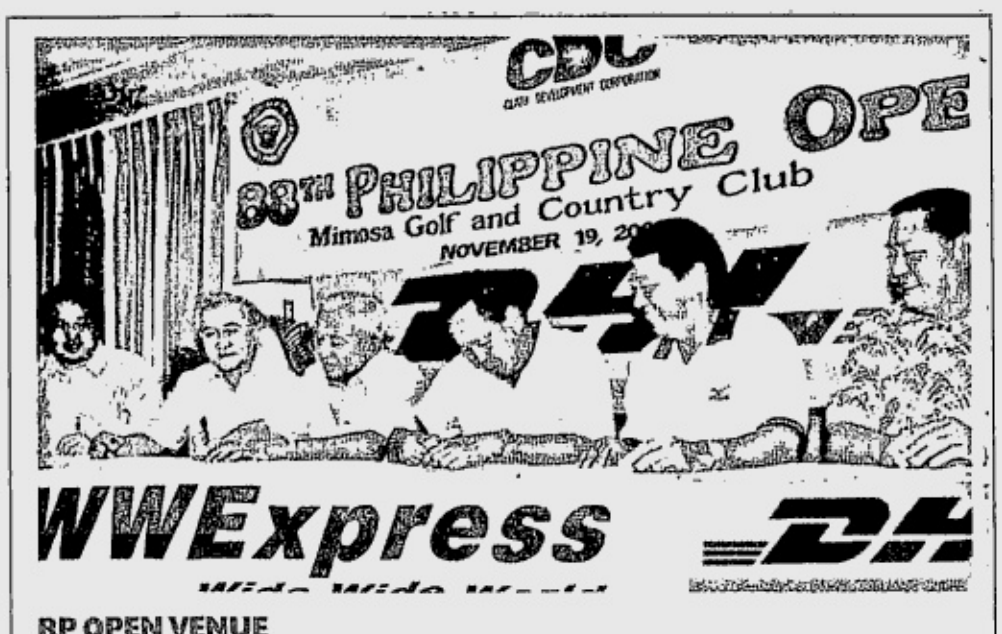
Cantada's breakthrough win was worth P165,840 while Tanpinco picked up prizes in kind worth P41,000. Bañares won P111,432 and Dumandan claimed P27,858.

"It was like JR or never. I just wanted to keep a promise I made to JR and look at what it has given me," said Cantada, now a full-time teaching pro at Wack Wack since missing the cut in the Philippine Open held at the same club two years ago.

JR, for his part, said Gerard still has the talent to win pro events if he decides to get back to the circuit. "He's the best partner I know and it was really him who made things happen for the team," he said.

The tournament was sponsored by U-Bix Konica Digital Copiers, Epson Printers, U-Bix Riso Digital Duplicators, S-Yard, Bravo Golf, Pivo Praha, Grappa's, Cafe Appassionato, Nike Golf (Pacsports), DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Airlift Asia, ESAPSA, Pagcor, PNOC, Toyota Motors, San Miguel, Petron and the Gopez Group of Companies.

CANTADA and Tanpinco display their trophies and check. Also shown, from left, are Danny Pizarro, Bert Bravo, Luisito Fernandez and Benny Gopez. JESS YUSON



RP OPEN VENUE
Dr. Manny Angeles (third from left) and Rod V. Feliciano (third from right) lead in the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement designating the Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga, as venue of the DHL 88th Philippine Open on Feb. 12-15. Angeles is President/CEO of Clark Development Corp. which operates Mimosa. Feliciano is president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines and Chair of both DHL and WWW Express Corp. The DHL 88th Philippine Open, the country's premiere golf tournament, will offer $250,000 in prizes through DHL top honcho Charles Brewer. Also in photo (from left) are Mimosa's Benny Gopez and NGAP vice president Adm. Louie Fernandez. Canadian Ric Gibson won last year's 87th RP Open and is set to defend his crown next February.

Welcoat grabs PBL lead

From page A25

overwhelming the Archers.

Welcoat was so dominant that at one point just about everybody hit from the three-point lane, including big men Ervin Sotto and Nelbert Omolon, Jercules Tangkay and James Yap.

ICTSI, who took their third loss in five games, fell behind by as much as 21 points, 85-64.

The 6-foot-7 Sotto hit four of seven from the three-point area to finish with a game-high 22 points.

Omolon contributed 18 after making three of his four three-point attempts, while Yap hit three of five triples all in the closing minutes of the game to wind up with 17.

Scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 88—Sotto 22, Omolon 18, Yap 17, Pingris 11, Artadi 7, Tangkay 5, Reyes 4, Wilson 2, Kalaw 2, Capus 0, Cuan 0, Celo 0, Santos, Patrimonio 0.

ICTSI 73—Cardona 16, Yeo 11, Aldeguer 8, Thoss 8, Ramos 6, Jose 5, Cabatu 5, Gavino 4, Villanueva 4, Uy 2, Tang 2, Aquino 2.

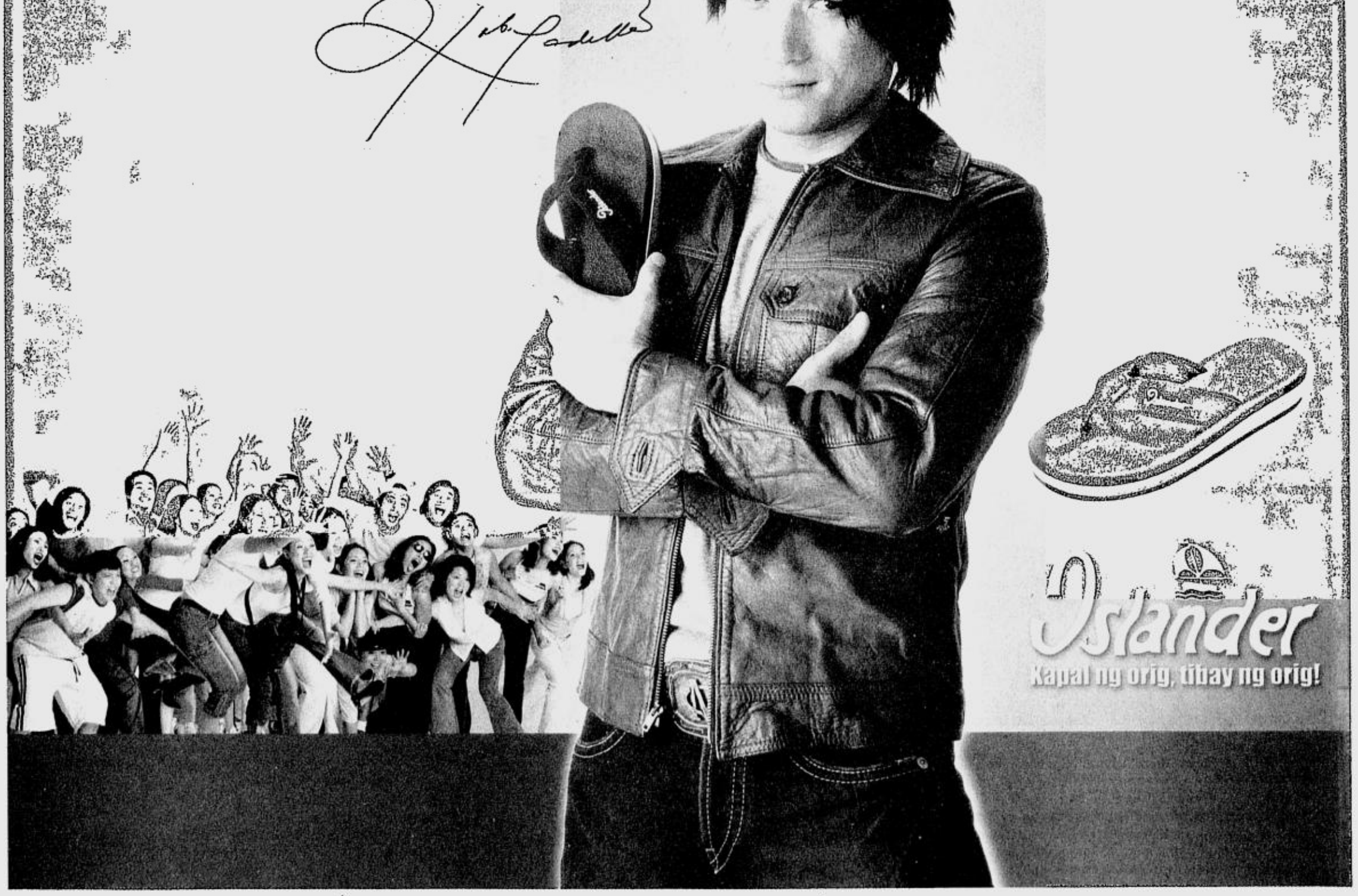
Quarters: 16-15, 35-32, 55-51, 88-73.

Second Game

FASH 68—Salangsang 10, Gelig 10, Alvarez 9, Simon 8, Tenorio 7, Moore 6, Tan 6, Fonacier 4, Gonzalez 4, Mercado 4, Benedicto 0, Dualan 0.

VIVA 60—Ybanez 15, Margate 9, Isip 9, Miranda 6, Yabut 4, Sinco 4, Santos 4, Misolas 3, Garcia 3, Razon 2, Co 1, Napa 0.

Quarters: 16-8, 28-25, 49-39, 68-60.



SPORTSWATCH

Chinese lifter world's strongest

VANCOUVER--China's Meiyuan Ding laid claim to the title of world's strongest woman in style Friday. Ding broke one of her world records and tied another in the 75-kilograms plus class at the world weightlifting championships. Ding had a lift of 137.5 kilograms in the snatch to break her previous mark of 135 kilograms. Ding actually broke it twice, lifting 135.5 kilograms on her second attempt before lifting 137.5 on her final lift. Ding, the 2000 Olympic gold medallist and '99 world champion, had a lift of 162.5 kilograms in the clean and jerk to finish with 300 kilograms overall, tying her own world record. Ding attempted 169 kilograms in her final clean-and-jerk attempt to break compatriot Dan Sun's mark of 168.5 kilograms, but failed. *AP*

Andam-Luat 9-ball clash on tap

THE EXCITING duel between two top Filipino cue artists Leonardo "Dodong" Andam and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat dubbed as "Jet Set-Robinson's Battle of the Masters 9-Ball Challenge" will be telecast tonight on the National Broadcasting Network at 11. The event was organized by Jet-KFJ-Set Cigarette Trading Phils., owned by Youssef Z. Ahmad, in cooperation with Robinson's Manila as part of its promotional campaign for its imported product Jet-Set Cigarettes which was launched last year. Witness how Andam, who beat Efren "Bata" Reyes in the "Challenge the Master," defends his crown against Luat in this best-of-three, race-to-7 event. Adding glitter to the special are singer Yamani and the trickshot exhibition of Asian Trickshot King Julie Falcon.

Arcilla heads tennis circuit cast

JOHNNY Arcilla will be the man to watch when he leads 12 other netters vying for the P70,000 top purse in the P400,000 Masters leg of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit which will begin tomorrow at the Manila Polo Club. Arcilla, who will also banner the men's team in the Vietnam SEA Games next month, garnered 900 points after sweeping the first three legs held at the Manila Polo Club, Subic and Cagayan de Oro. Joseph Victorino and Adelo Abadia are tied for second with identical 450 points followed by Rolando Ruel Jr. (270), Patrick John Tierro (210), Rocky Paglalunan (180), Alexander Lazaro (150), Pop Sabandon (135), Jessie Lapore (120), Antonio Sagansay III, Jaime Solon (105) and Elbert Anasta (90). Leading tandem in the doubles offering P50,000 to the winners are Arcilla and Michael Mora III (720).

Tagaytay Midlands tilt set Dec. 6

A NORTHWEST world business class ticket to any destination will be staked as a hole-in-one prize in the members' merry mix-up Christmas golf tournament on Dec. 6 at the Tagaytay Midlands golf club course. The field will tee-off shotgun style at 8:30 a.m. after the registration starting at 6 a.m. The ticket will be raffled off in case nobody scores an ace in the 18-hole tourney which is open to members, spouses, dependents and guests of both the Tagaytay Highlands International golf club and Tagaytay Midlands. Tournament fee is P2,000 for a member-member team and P3,500 for a member-guest team. For inquiries, call 046-4132639.

Badminton tourney at Aguinaldo

A TOTAL of 224 participants from different courts and clubs in Metro Manila will compete in the 1st Sarap Mag-Badminton Hataw Cup at the Camp Aguinaldo Badminton Courts on Dec. 6 and 7. Backed by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and San Miguel Beer Super Dry, the tournament is open to all badminton players as organizer bracketed the participants to five different levels, A, B, C, D and E, both in the men's and women's divisions. The event, which begins at 8 a.m., is co-sponsored by BPI Card Corp. and Purefoods-Hormel Company Inc. The awarding ceremony will be held at the KSP Bar and Grill in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Fistorama fights on RPN-9 today

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features two action-packed bouts in the light-flyweight division. Arnold Tangpuz of Stonewall Boxing in Cebu faces Adonis Llagas of Donaire Stable in four rounds. Raymond Sabulao of RDS Boxing Stable battles Manny Arsenal in six rounds. The fights were held recently at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bicutan, Taguig. Now on its second year, the show is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN-9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. Golf Power follows the boxing favorite at 3 p.m.

6-a-side football at Manila Nomads

THE SHANGHAI Shooters, Taipei Dragons FC, Shanghai Lions, Taipei Animals, Manila Nomads, Athletico De Wanchai, Seoul BF Club Jokers and the Toronto Castaways are the top ranked squads in the Manila Nomads International 6-a-side Football Tournament which kicked off yesterday at the Nomad Sports Club in Merville, Parañaque. There are 32 teams divided into eight groups. Last year's top squads were ranked on top of their respective groups. The event is hosted and staged by the Nomads Sports Club.

TOP DRIVERS
Filipino drivers Tyson Sy (second from left) and Don Pastor (second from right) join Korean Kyong Ouk You at the conclusion of the Formula BMW Asia championship, a 14-race series that forms part of the Asian Festival of Speed, recently. Sy piled up 169 points to finish second behind You who amassed 205 points while Pastor garnered 151 points to place third. Flanking the winners are Guido Stalman (left) of the sponsoring BMW and David Sonenscher of the organizing Motorsports Asia Limited.

EXTREME CHAMP
Cagayan de Oro's Team Tide-Bilstein emerged team champion of the 2003 Delo Sports 4x4 National Extreme series, which concluded its fourth and final leg at the Marikina River Banks recently. The team, which sent four of its off-roaders in the final leg's top 10, is composed of (from left) team captain Agustin "Toten" Macmang, Albert Monte de Ramos, Alex Basong, Litoy Te, Robert Abas, Richard Emano and crew member.

War Hero wins again

Wind Blown guns for history today in Classic

By Edwin Villanueva

WAR Hero stamped herself as the queen of the distaffs by trouncing the field in the 8th Marho Breeders' Cup 3-Year-Old Fillies yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

The John Mendoza-owned, Rudy Mendoza-trained galloper won the one mile event by an impressive five lengths as she unleashed the same overpowering run that catapulted her to victory in the 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup 3YO championship two weeks ago at the same track.

"Dominado niya ang grupo (She's too much for the group)," said Pat Dilema, the three-time Jockey of the Year who once again sat on the bay daughter of Medium Cool and Palace Heights.

War Hero, co-trained by Nick Atienza, captured the P600,000 first prize as the two-day Marho championships unfolded before another mammoth crowd.

Three more major battles will be disputed today but all eyes will be on champion galloper Wind Blown who will attempt to enter the history books by winning the Classic for three straight years.

Posing the biggest threat to Wind Blown in the 2,050-meter event is Golden Ballet, the same horse who beat him in the First Gentleman Silver Cup last April.

"He's ready. I hope he'll live up to his fans' expectations again," said prominent horseowner Hermie Esguerra of the Hazm-Wind in My Hair progeny who has been rumored to run his farewell race today after a brilliant four-year career.

Aside from Golden Ballet, others out to stop the Nestor Manalang-trained Wind Blown are battle-scarred runners Lyonnais, Silver Story, Staunch Ally and Hyperbid.

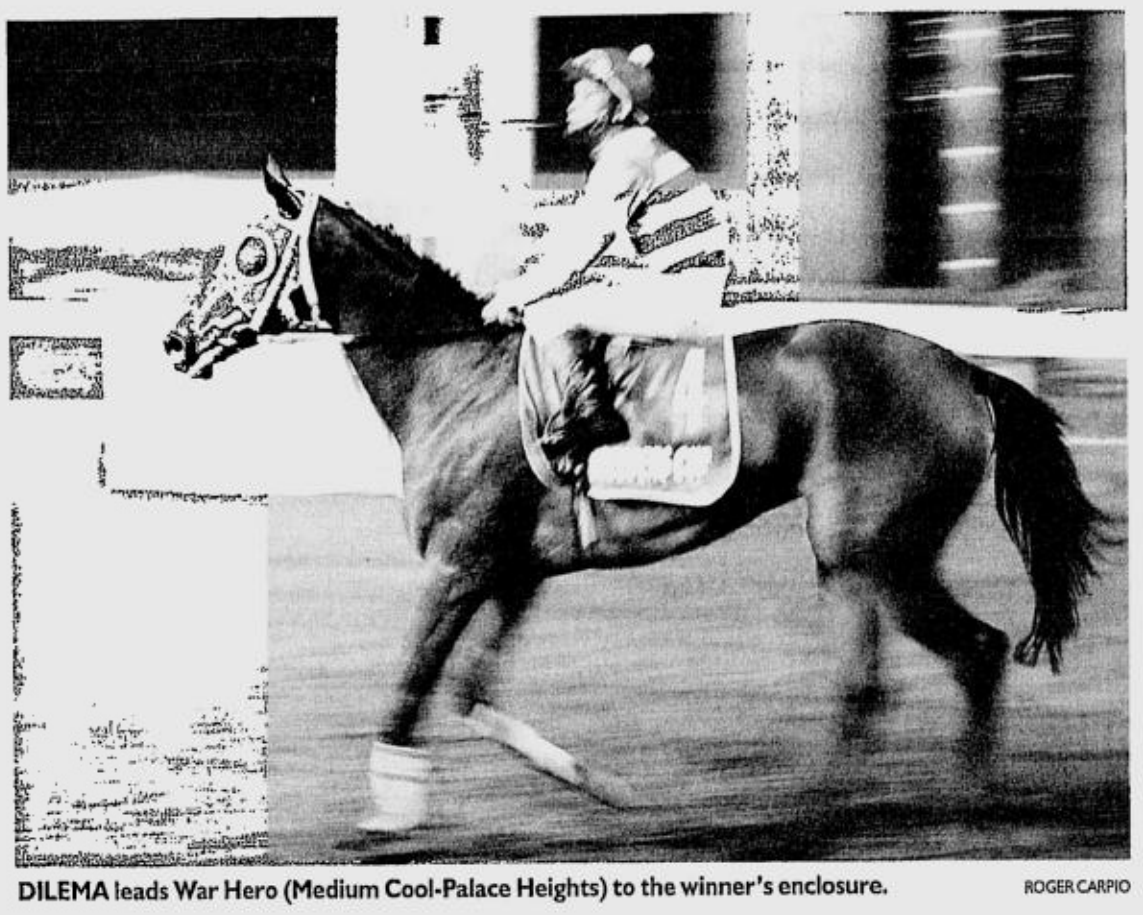
"Sinuwerte lang tayo uli (We just got lucky again)," said Rudy Mendoza, who's also looking for a win through Don Paolo in the Juvenile Colts today.

Don Paolo (Medium Cool-Vice Royal), is hoping to avenge his loss to Empire King in the recent Philtobo-Mitra Cup hostilities.

"Sana makabawi kay Empire King (I hope we could get back at Empire King)," added Dilema, Don Paolo's regular pilot.

The other attraction is the 3-Year-Old Colts where Esguerra is banking on Philtobo-Mitra Cup 3YO titlist High Octane and his coupled entry Siete de Marso.

Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat said that in addition to the three P1-million championship races, two other top money races will also be disputed today, including the P750,000 Philracom All-Imported" Championship over 1,800 meters and the P450,000 Philracom Maiden Stakes Races. Stablemates' Absolute Charmer and Midnight Lady head the cast in the All-Import Championship.



DILEMA leads War Hero (Medium Cool-Palace Heights) to the winner's enclosure. ROGER CARPIO

Prelude to goodbye

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

TODAY could be the last race of Wind Blown, "The King" of Philippine racing.

And what a better way to hold it than in the Marho Bredeers' Cup Classic where Hermie Esguerra's champion galloper would be seeking one last stab at glory.

Hopefully, there won't be any spoiler around come this afternoon's highlight race, otherwise Wind Blown's last hurrah could be tainted with disappointment and of course, sadness.

But we understand Wind Blown is ready to give the finest performance of his career.

"Handang handa na. Para ngang nananabik nang tumakbo," said Esguerra, under whose ownership Wind Blown transformed into the country's foremost galloper.

"Wind Blown's race this afternoon is for all the fans who supported him, cheered him and bet on him throughout his career. *Sana po manood kayong lahat,"* added Esguerra.

So is Wind Blown really running his final race today? Mr. Esguerra is expected to make an official announcement regarding the real score on Wind Blown because speculations swirled around that the Marho Classic would really be his last after the *bayang karerista* found out that he's not entered in the Presidential Gold Cup next month.

If Wind Blown succeeds this afternoon, he'd be the first to win the event for three straight years although making it twice in a row in the Classic last year already earned him a spot in local racing's history books.

We also learned that Esguerra has already set a big day of tribute for the son of Hazm and Wind in My Hair.

To be called the "Wind Blown Racing Festival" (fortunately, it will be also held at Santa Ana and not at the "wa-class" racetrack in Cavite), the Dec. 7 racefest will have all the trimmings of a gala sendoff fit only for a king.

And this could turn out to be the real mother of all racefests because all the finest horses owned by Philtobo and Marho members, as well as those from the two other unpopular and unrecognized-by-fans racing groups, are taking part in one gigantic day of racing hostilities.

To spice up the affair, popular singer-comedian Ogie Alcasid will reportedly render a special song about Wind Blown during his farewell gallop.

That is aside of course from the announcement of the top winners of the "Likha Tula" contest, holding of photo exhibit depicting the horse's sterling achievements, and the giving away of "Wind Blown pa rin" souvenir caps and t-shirts.

So forget about this coming week's races at the "wa-class" racetrack, let's all be at Santa Ana today and be a part of history.

Let's also hope Jeff Zarate does the right thing in what could be the greatest moment in his riding career.

Win or lose, Wind Blown will always be the *bayang karerista's* champ!

***

E-mail *One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph* or *edongvilla@yahoo.com.*

RACING TIPS

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Race 2--1. Queen Banana 2. Sambal 3. Stallone 4. Alexis Magic
Race 3--1. Cartada Nueva 2. Western Dancer 3. Lance 4. Gigi's Gold 5. Sir Guguy
Race 4--1. Angie Gray 2. Empire State 3. Frost Bite
Race 5--1. Don Paolo 2. Shock and Awe/Nothing to Declare 3. Empire King
Race 6--1. Royal Lantana/Coromell 2. Laughing Matter 3. Power Pack 4. Latin Beat
Race 7--1. Midnight Lady 2. Absolute Charmer 3. Catwalk Pia
Race 8--1. Lolita 2. Maayo Kaayo 3. Tout Est Grace 4. Just Dance
Race 9--1. West Bound 2. High Octane/Siete de Marso 3. Diktador 4. Security Master
Race 10--1. Loose Cannon 2. Star Material 3. Brazen Truth 4. Reverie 5. Ann's Magic
Race 11--. Wind Blown 2. Golden Ballet 3. Lyonnais 4. Silver Story
Race 12--1. Espirikitik 2. Roadshow 3. Bogart 4. Aya's Dream 5. Friendly Venture/High and Mighty
Race 13--1. Real Slew 2. Material Maker 3. Perfect Storm
Race 14--1. Real Tough 2. Spinning Bullet 3. Golden Lance 4. Queen Matawe
Race 15--1. The Warrior 2. Powerhouse 3. Secret 4. Tenacity 5. Rolex 6. Sekrata

Pacers keep unbeaten run on the road

NEW ORLEANS—The Indiana Pacers, with the NBA's best record, stayed unbeaten on the road thanks to a last-second miss by New Orleans rookie David West.

Jermaine O'Neal scored 24 points and Reggie Miller hit a pair of go-ahead free throws with 8.4 seconds left to lift the Indiana Pacers to a 76-75 victory over the Hornets on Friday night.

Ron Artest scored 22 points and O'Neal also had 11 rebounds and five blocks for Indiana, which snapped the Hornets' four-game winning streak.

The Hornets got one last chance with a second left after O'Neal missed a pair of free throws—the second purposely in an effort to run out the clock. But West just missed converting a backdoor alley-oop pass from Sean Rooks, shooting the ball just a bit too hard off the backboard.

Meanwhile, New Jersey Nets' Kenyon Martin and Alonzo Mourning almost came to blows in the Nets' practice, The Star Ledger reported Friday.

Thursday's clash started according to the newspaper with Martin and Richard Jefferson mocking Mourning after he was made to run sprints for losing to his teammates in a scrimmage drill.

Complete results:

San Antonio 114, Atlanta 75; Minnesota 97, Cleveland 83; Detroit 94, New York 85; Denver 108, Washington 87; Utah 99, Milwaukee 90; Indiana 76, New Orleans 75; Philadelphia 87, Boston 85; Golden State 101, Miami 91; Sacramento 122, Orlando 92; LA Lakers 101, Chicago 94; Portland 85, Houston 78; Memphis 98, Seattle 97.

Big Eight action begins Nov. 25

WELL-rested St. Francis of Assisi and San Sebastian College enjoy the luxury of facing rivals coming off knockout matches when the Big Eight action of the Champions' League unfolds on Nov. 25 at the FEU gym.

The Doves, the first team to advance after repulsing Adamson in the tournament's opener, meet the winner between University of San Jose-Recoletos and University of Assumption-Pampanga while the Stags clash with the victor of the University of Visayas-San Beda encounter.

The other half of the Big Eight will see Far Eastern U taking on NCAA titlist Letran and Ateneo meeting Holy Cross of Davao College, conqueror of last year's champion University of the East.

With FEU seeing action, the games will be played on a neutral venue to be announced later.

St. Francis, with national player Ranidel de Ocampo leading the charge, is expected to win this year.

Roligon 5-cock derby lures big field

AFTER the smashing success of the 293-entry Hattah-Hattah Derby last June, Roligon Mega Cockpit will come up with the "Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby" on Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 11 and 13.

More than 300 entries are expected to join.

For an entry fee of P8,800, the total prize at stake is P2.25 million. The fastest kill champ will get an imported Nissan Serena as bonus.

Promoter Rolly Ligon explained that elimination rounds (2-cock) will be held on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 11 while the finale is on Dec. 13.

"All the prizes indicated in derby invitations are guaranteed. The P8,800 entry fee is definitely affordable even for smalltime cockers, that's why the total number of entries may reach 300," Ligon added.

Reservation of cockhouses is now ongoing and inquiries may be coursed through 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Meanwhile, San Pablo City sportsman Blandy Tolentino bagged the LGBA Breeder of the Year plum last Thursday.

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Ali 6	LIBERATED
Ali 7	WRONG TURN

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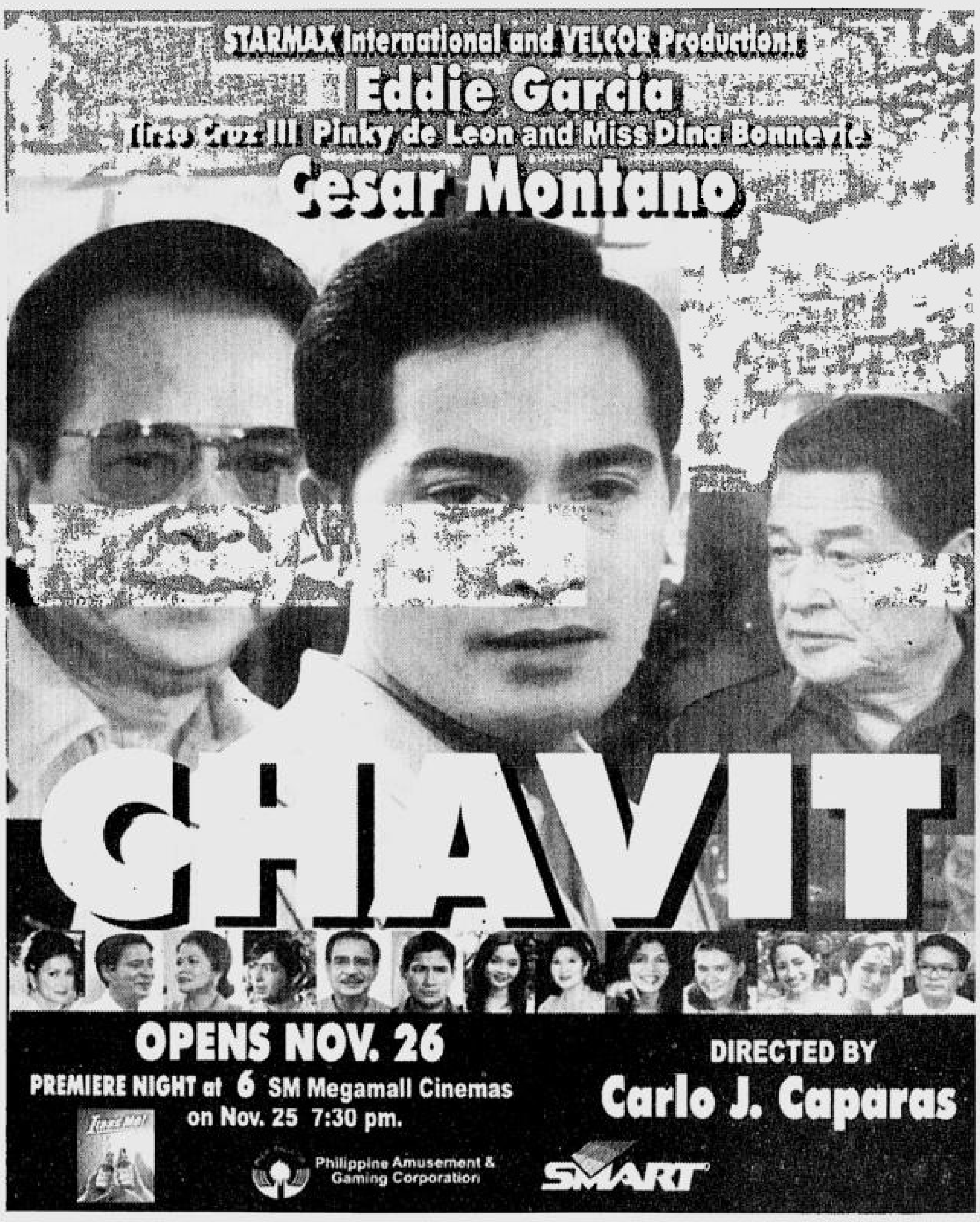

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2 SCARY MOVIE 3	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 12:10 3:05 6:00 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS SCARY MOVIE 3 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 12:00	2 MR. SUAVE
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MASTER & COMMANDER 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00 12:00	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	3 GUARANTEED SEATS UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30	3 MASTER AND COMMANDER
4 MR. SUAVE	4 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		4 GUARANTEED SEATS MR. SUAVE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	4 MASTER AND COMMANDER
	5 WRONG TURN		GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:00 3:35 6:10 8:45 11:20	5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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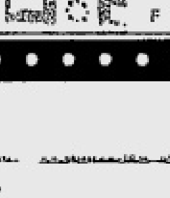

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3 MR. SUAVE
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7 SCARY MOVIE 3
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10 SEX SCANDAL

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5 MASTER & COMMANDER
6 LIBERATED
7 MR. SUAVE
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9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 SEX SCANDAL

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2 WRONG TURN
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 MASTER & COMMANDER
5 MR. SUAVE
6 SEX SCANDAL
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 MR. SUAVE
9 SCARY MOVIE 3
10 LIBERATED
11 THE RUNDOWN
12 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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10 SCARY MOVIE 3
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2 SEX SCANDAL
3 MR. SUAVE
4 SCARY MOVIE 3

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1 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
2 RESERVED
3 MR. SUAVE
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
7 RESERVED
8 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2

SM CITY MANILA
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MASTER & COMMANDER
3 SCARY MOVIE 3
4 SCARY MOVIE 3
5 WRONG TURN
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
7 SEX SCANDAL
8 THE PHONE
9 MR. SUAVE
10 MR. SUAVE
11 THE WISHER
12 LIBERATED

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1 UNDERWORLD
2 MR. SUAVE
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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2 MR. SUAVE
3 RESERVED
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THE PODIUM CINEMA

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SCARY MOVIE 3
11:30 FS/11:55 MF/1:45/3:35/5:25/7:15/9:05/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

MASTER & COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD
11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:00/5:40/8:20/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:10 END

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2 SCARY MOVIE 3 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40
3 MASTER AND COMMANDER 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
4 WRONG TURN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
5 MR. SUAVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
7 DARK BLUE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
8 SEX SCANDAL 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
9 HEAD OF STATE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
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2 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:55, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:15, 1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30
5 MR. SUAVE - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00

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2 MASTER AND COMMANDER
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8 DARK BLUE

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MASTER AND COMMANDER	5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Malabon
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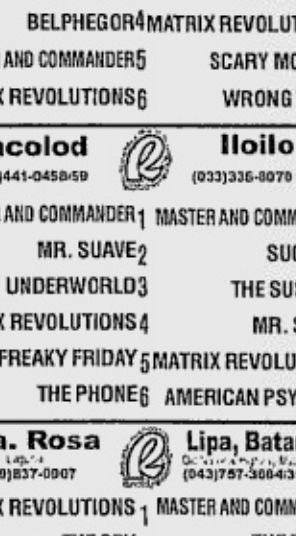
1 SEX SCANDAL
2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 MR. SUAVE
4 MASTER AND COMMANDER



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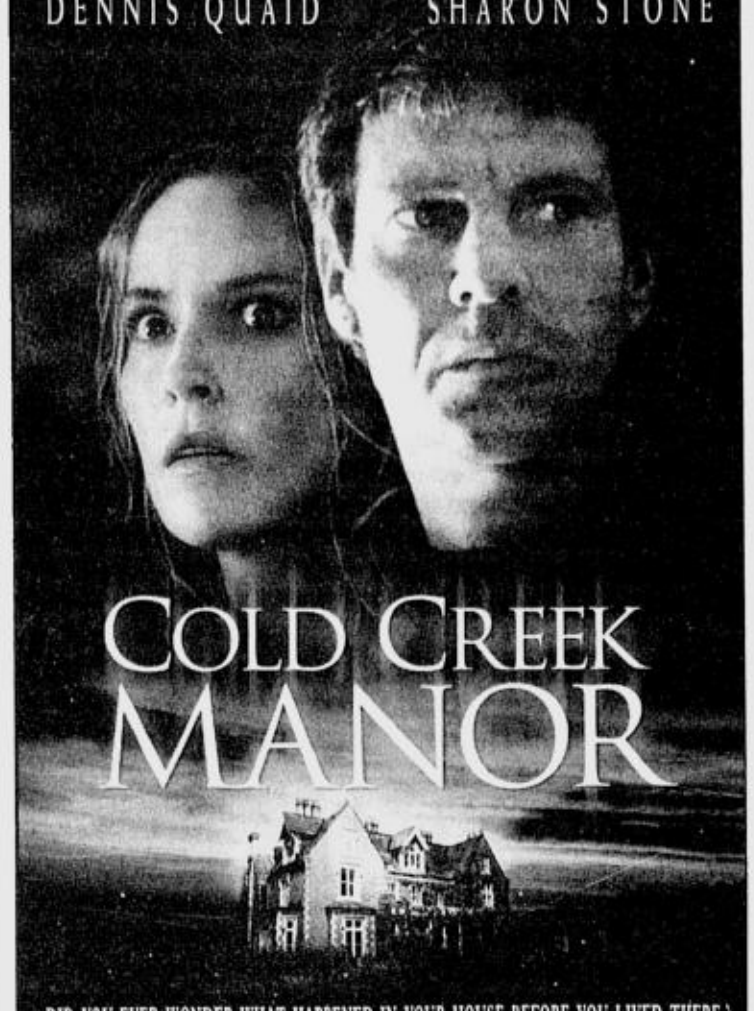
DENNIS QUAID SHARON STONE



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COLD-CREEK-MANOR.COM
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OPENS DECEMBER 3 MAGIC 89.9

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SCARY MOVIE 3

MIRAMAX

Asian Formula 3 series ends Nov. 30

THE ASIAN Formula 3 (AF3) Series 2003 will end its season on Sunday (Nov. 30) at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The event, dubbed the "Addict Mobile Formula 3 Super Prix," is the final installment in Asia's premier formula car racing series, which is being held in the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and China.

It is organized by the AF3 Corp. and sponsored by Yokohama Tires, Denso and Regional Container Lines.

Although the driver's championships in the International and Promotional classes have been decided, the pride factor is still a major issue and winning the final event of the year will be extremely important.

The event will be aired on NBN 4 on Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 to 4 p.m.

Heading the field in the Addict Mobile Formula 3 Super Prix, which is presented by Addict Mobile and supported by Fila, Hewlett Packard and Standard Insurance, is newly crowned 2003 AF3 International Class champion Pepon Marave of Shell Casino Filipino Team Tom's, who won the title during the last leg in Beijing, China. He will face stiff opposition from 2002 AF3 champion Mark Goddard of Castrol Ambi Pur Team Goddard and round 12 winner Richard Joson of Denso Hanjin JF3. Also adding to Marave's worries will be Australian F3 star Christian Jones—son of 1980 Formula One champion Alan Jones, who is making his first appearance in the series.

RP nine picked

THE PHILIPPINE Blu Boys aim to win the Asian qualifying as impressively as possible to gain some respect from the opposition when they proceed for New Zealand in January.

With eight nations competing, the seventh edition of the Asian meet begins next Saturday at the Rizal Stadium with the Blu Boys heavily favored to clinch one of three slots for the world tournament scheduled Jan 26-Feb. 3, 2004 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

"That's what we intend to achieve. Win the Asian crown handily so that they won't take us for granted when we play the top teams in the world in New Zealand," Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines president and Manila Congressman Harry Angping said yesterday.

At the height of softball popularity here in the sixties and early seventies, the Blu Boys, led by world class pitchers like Primo Lazaro and Hernando Posadas, figured in several close, interesting battles with the United States and New Zealand and even placed a fighting fourth during the 1968 world championship in Oklahoma.

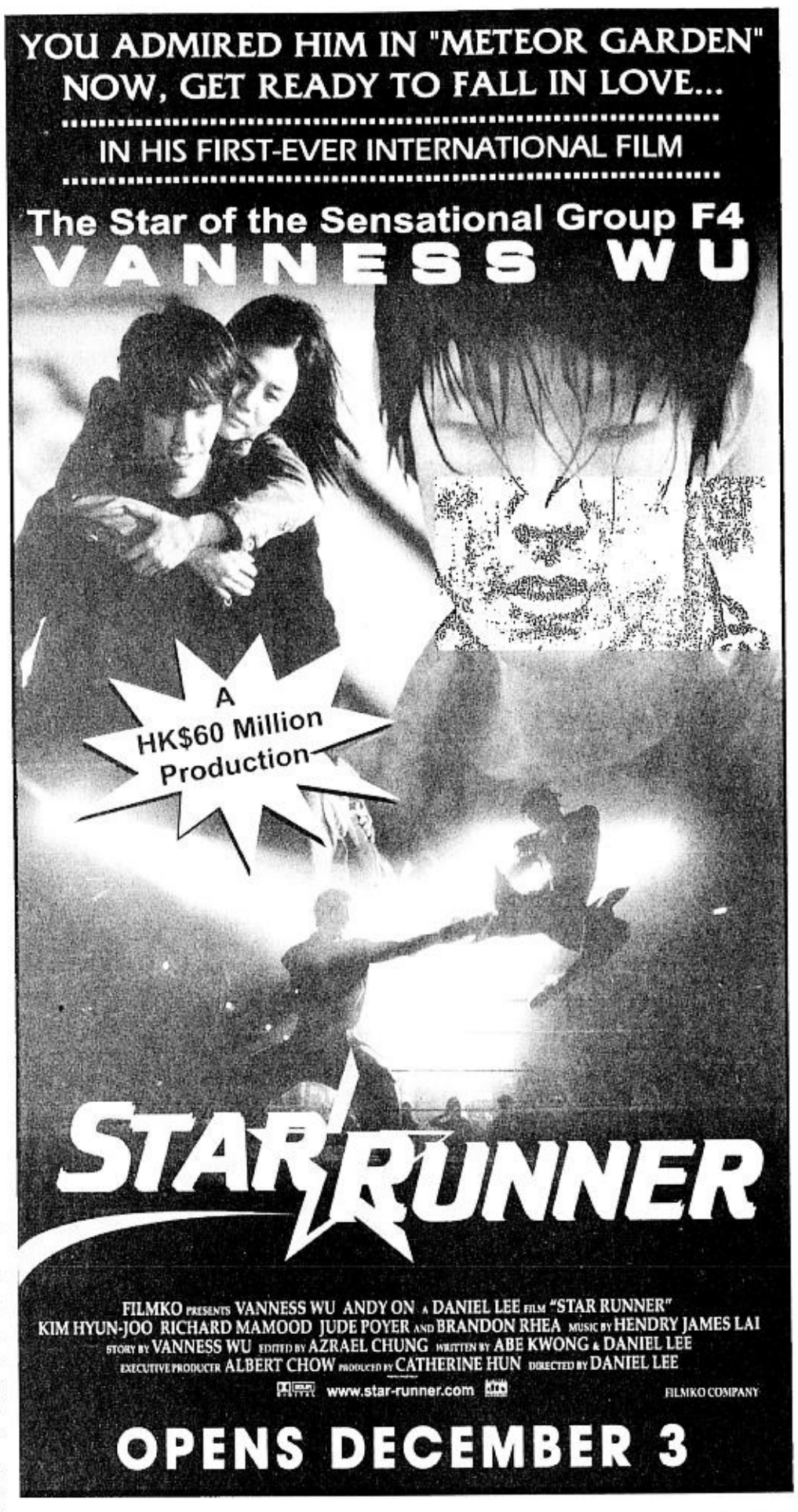
The Blu Boys should have no trouble making it to the Asian finals opposite defending champion Japan.

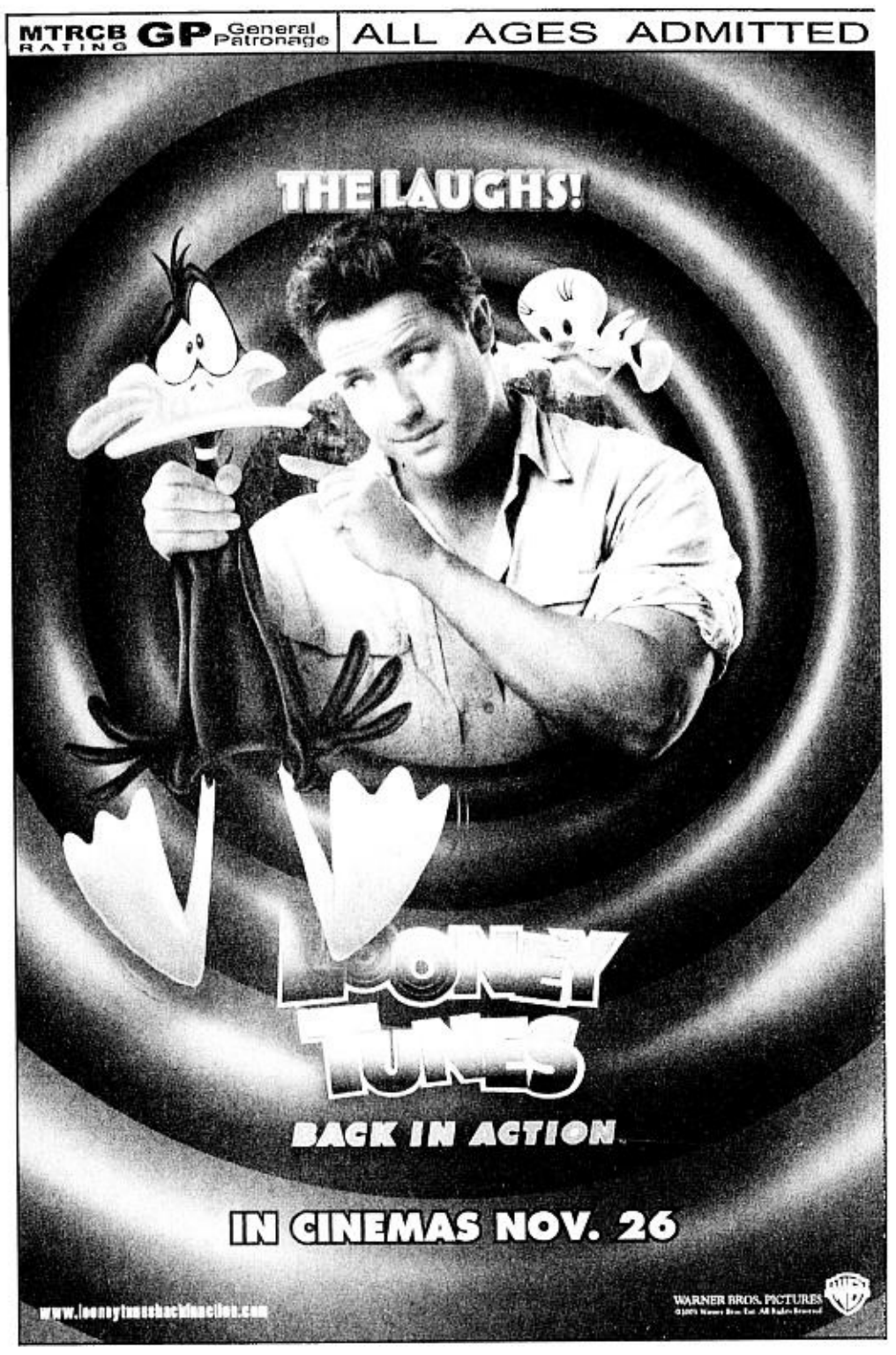
The two title favorites are expected to debut with a flourish on Nov. 29 with the Blu Boys taking on Iran and the Japanese playing Thailand in the lower half of the four-game inaugural program.

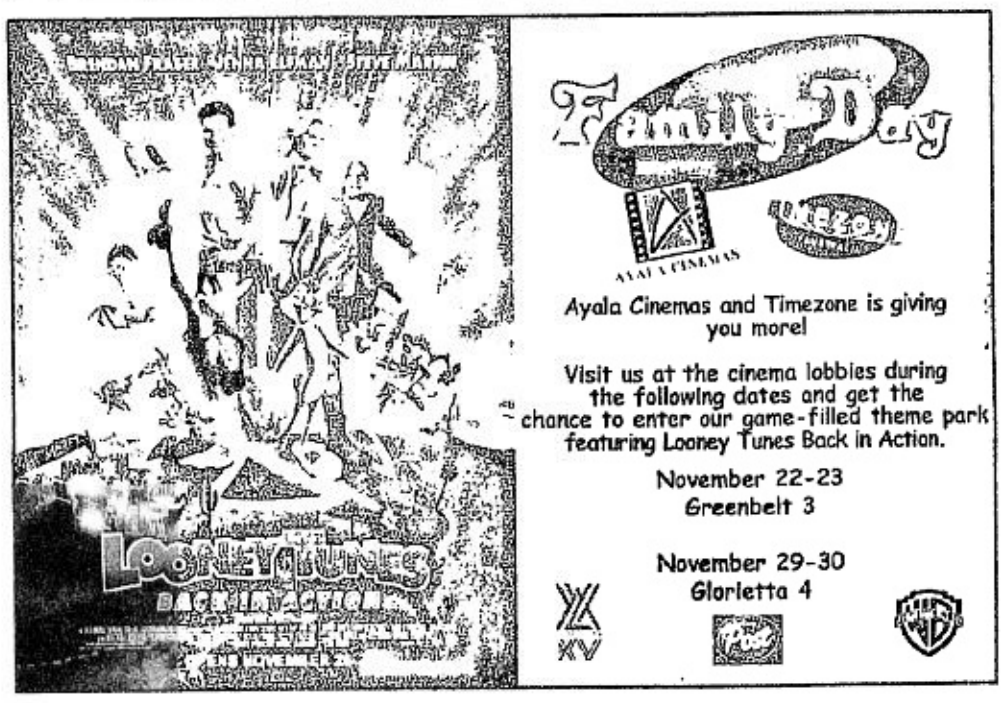
England bags Cup

SYDNEY, Australia—Jonny Wilkinson kicked a dropped goal with 26 seconds remaining in extra time as England edged defending champion Australia 20-17 in Saturday's wet World Cup final and became the first European winner of rugby's ultimate prize.

The 24-year-old flyhalf had missed three earlier dropped goals. *AP*







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Super is the latest, colorful addition to the Saturday Special section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. For inquiries, please call 897-8808.

Style. Urban Living. Pop Culture. Entertainment. Recreation.

Speakers salute Filipino creativity

BAGUIO CITY (Via Bayantel)- Two of the distinguished foreign speakers at the 18th Philippine Advertising Congres (PAC) called on the local advertising community, particularly the younger generation, to learn how to step back for a view of the bigger picture and find partners who are not afraid to "rock the boat."

Indian advertising guru Piyush Pandey stressed two things: the need to believe in oneself and teaming up with partners that "are willing to rock the boat."

"We need our confidence, we need to believe that we are as good as anybody else and we also need partners who believe in us. Partners who do not want us to repeat what others have done in the past," Pandey said in a talk to reporters Friday.

Pandey is the national creative director of Ogilvy & Mather India. His session talked about how a third world country can become a "creative powerhouse."

Another foreign speaker, George Singleton of Publicis Asia-Pacific, said that in finding the "Big Idea," one must first need to "step back and look at the big picture."

"Ask what's really happening before you start proposing a solution," the regional strategy director of Publicis-Asia Pacific said.

"Every advertising agency needs a holistic difference, our point of difference versus our competition like the Publicis' approach to business, brands and consumers," added Singleton, whose session with the delegates focused on finding the "La Holistic Difference" or the Big Holistic Idea in advertising.

This "new approach," he said, had been in development for over a year and a half by the Europe-based Publicis and was formally launched in February this year.

"In the process of helping people solve their business problems, one of the things we realized is that you can't just go in with an advertising solution. You need to step back and look at the big picture and ask what's really happening with the business before you start proposing for an advertising solution," Singleton said.

Like Pandey, Singleton also expressed confidence in the skills and capabilities of the Filipino people especially in terms of creativity.

Singleton also pointed out the proficiency of Filipinos in the English language as an advantage over other Asian countries which, he said, must be utilized to the hilt.

"I told my agency that we have an opportunity in the Philippines to do something that's really wonderful and I think you are starting in that direction. A big idea is just a dream unless you figure out a plan to get there," Singleton said.

"You are as good as anybody else. Your work is fantastic. But you're lacking in people believing in you to the extent of wanting to do more. You're still trying to prove yourself to people," said Pandey,

Pandey and Singleton are among the six foreign speakers featured at the 18th Ad Congress. It was the first time for the event to have resource persons from the international advertising industry.

Pandey is the first Asian to gain the distinction of being named as incoming chair of the film and press and outdoor juries at the renowned Cannes Lion International Advertising Festival in 2004.

Singleton said it is important for the Philippine advertising community to "really build something that is enduring over time." be it a business or a brand.

Pandey urged the Philippine advertising community to find "partners" who are open to reinventing oneself in order to "promote and package ourselves that we are better."

"We have to find partners who are willing to rock the boat and who are able to demonstrate successes with us. I'm sure that moment will take place," said Pandey.

"You have the capability. You are waiting for a break. The knowledge, the skills, passion and artistry are there. I've never seen such passion from you and I can feel the buzz. I am learning from this experience," Pandey said.

He noted it will only take "two or three breakthroughs, nothing more than that" for the opportunity on a global scale to arise.

Another guest speaker, Soumitra Saha, vice president for regional advertising at Turner Entertainment Network Asia Pacific, lauded the "great" response he received from delegates during his media forum with the topic, "Sell Your Medium."

Saha, who is responsible for developing strategies for expanding Turner Entertainment business across the Asia-Pacific, talked of how advertisers, agencies and broadcast mediums are working together in producing quality and values-oriented programming for children.

"Kids influence the line of products parents buy. Most advertisers realize that kids these days are much more informed. And advertisers now realize that they probably should talk more to kids," Saha said.

Saha, another Indian national, cautioned parents against not being too careful in keeping an eye on which programs they expose their children to.

"As much as it is our responsibility to manage a network, it is a parent's responsibility to be careful," Saha said, adding that their standards and procedures at Turner are strictly being followed to ensure programs fit for kids.

Other speakers for the "Sell Your Medium" media forum were J. Manuel Dabao, president of the Philippine Cable Television Association Inc., and Karen de Asis, faculty member of the De La Salle Graduate School of Business.

The other resource speakers included directors Tony Gloria, Jun Reyes. Raul Jorolan, and Sid Maderazo for the session "How Commercials Are Made From a Director's Point of View."

Ramon Lizardo, vice president for business and linkages of INQ7 Interactive and Mary Anne Tolentino, assistance vice president of the emerging markets group of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, tackled the issue of whether "Texting" is the "next big idea in advertising."

Amid the "greater phenomenon" of Short Messaging System or in Filipino parlance, texting, over 150 million messages are being sent out every single day over the air waves, the speakers said.

"Economically, 200 million text messages a day roughly convert to P200 million worth of revenues per day or approximately P6 billion a month, creating a formidable industry that generates employment, new businesses and income for Filipinos."

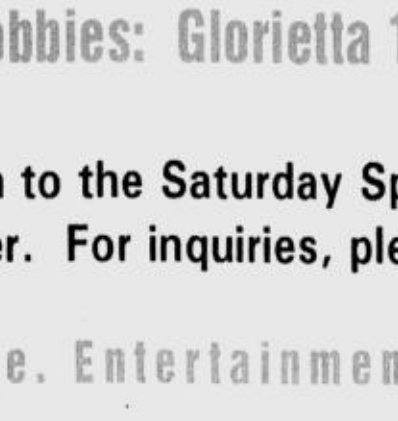
"Clearly, texting is truly another big idea that we can take advantage of in every way possible," Lizardo said.

With the strong impact of technology on Filipinos, both speakers said the challenge in the advertising industry lies in engaging in "mobile wireless-applications-related campaigns."

"If 4G (4th generation) technology becomes reality at a speed of 1 gigabit per second, then live streaming TV, radio, voice, internet, and several other kinds of signals all through wireless technology, are also forthcoming. With this development, we should then start preparing by getting our feet wet in all these mediums."

"We need to look forward. The time is coming when we will no longer play in the field of online media alone, but in all other media as well. The die is cast and there is no time to wait and see."

GEORGE Singleton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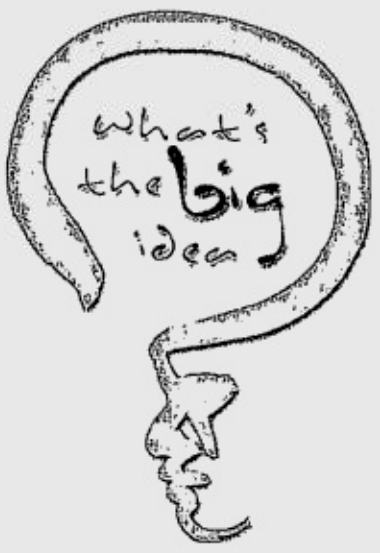

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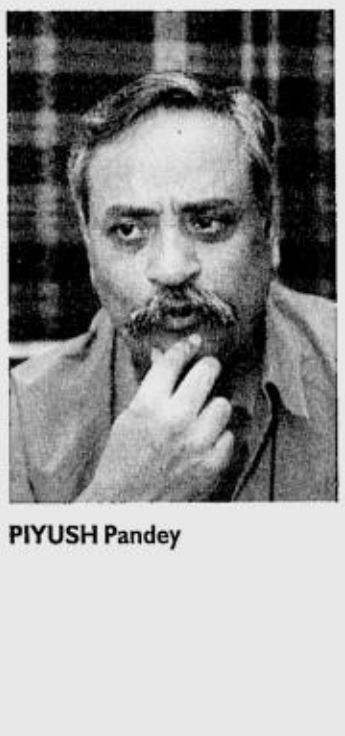
PIYUSH Pandey

Sessions inspire world-class creativity

BAGUIO CITY (via Bayantel) - The 13 sessions of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC), aimed at serving as significant eye-openers on how the local advertising industry can make it big in the international arena, turned out to be successful as the well-attended Ad Congress commenced yesterday, according to 18th PAC programs committee chair Andre Kahn.

According to Kahn, the three-day convention held at the CAP Convention Center in Camp John Hay Baguio City were well-attended by delegates who listened to the lectures and presentations of foreign speakers and local advertising authorities.

"I think what made this year's Congress successful was having the right balance of speakers so that every sector of the ad industry had a session devoted to their concerns," Kahn said. "One of the primary issues that we had to deal with was to make sure that we had sessions for these concerns and issues," he added

Kahn said his biggest challenge as chairman of the programs committee was finding the right mix of speakers who could best give their insights on the issues. The theme of the 18th PAC, "What's the Big Idea?", aimed at positioning the Philippines to become a creative powerhouse in the international arena.

"That goal justifies our reason for bringing in foreign speakers so that they could input as to how we could do that," he said. "While we are now looking on how to conquer Asia, the next step after that is the world so it is but proper to be fully-equipped in knowledge and expertise."

Kahn noted that many of the foreign speakers who were all first-timers in attending a Philippine ad congress, admitted that they were "shocked and awed" to know how we can organize a world-class convention.

The other thing that the foreign speakers were very amazed at, he added, was the number of young people who had the hunger and interest to learn from the sessions. They were impressed at seeing them listen and participate in their lectures, Kahn said. "It's very gratifying for us in the organizing committee to know that."

"Here is the next generation of people who will take over a dynamic ad industry that is forever in need of new and refreshing young blood. What I think we have given them is an injection of the right direction to open their creativity and they will take it from there," Kahn added.

Asked how the Philippines is rating in creative competitiveness in Asia, he said that the country is slowly starting to win awards in some of the major international competitions like the Cannes and the Clio but other Asian countries have managed to project themselves ahead of the Philippines especially Thailand and India. He personally thought the country was even way ahead of these countries in the past, but for some reasons, they have managed to overtake us. Citing the issues tackled by the speakers, Kahn explained that the 18th PAC sessions were able to answer that and also gave local advertising professionals some guidelines on how to move forward.

"The key is creativity. The Filipinos are very creative and this year's Ad Congress fittingly celebrated Filipino creativity. That was the significance of this convention. If we could get our creative people to be world-class, it will not be very long for us to make it big in the world," he said.

ADVT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

There's a career in here.

JOB MARKET

www.jobmarketonline.com

Why marketing folks spend tons on the Ad Congress

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CAMP JOHN HAY, Baguio City— Thousands of marketing and advertising practitioners trooped to the summer capital during the last few days, paying some $1 million, or P50 million, for a two-and-a-half day seminar, attending several all-night parties, and getting a chance to win fancy raffle prizes.

Overall chair of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress Eugenio Lopez III claimed that this year's event had 2,668 delegates. But organizers of the 17th Congress held in Cebu in 2001 said attendees then totaled over 3,000.

The event is a major one for the advertising industry. It gives an opportunity to media outfits to woo the country's advertisers and treat members of ad agencies, who make the decisions on where to place their clients' ads, with entertainment, major raffles and giveaways.

The theme for this year's event is "What's the big idea?" which, according to David Guerrero, a member of the organizing committee, "focused the attention of the industry on the importance of a creative idea."

Guerrero said it was important to create better Philippine-made ads to make the international market use local ideas in their ads.

He said turning the Philippines into an exporter of ideas would help increase employment in the local advertising industry and provide an opportunity for local ad practitioners to get higher-paying jobs.

The first step toward this was getting internationally acclaimed foreign judges for the first time to choose the winners of the Araw Awards, the local Oscars for the advertising industry.

As expected, there are fewer winners of the awards this year than in previous years because of the stricter criteria and the higher standards imposed by the judges.

Guerrero admitted that the idea of converting the Philippines into a creative center, a call made by Ayala Corp. top man Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala in the 2001 Congress, would ultimately depend on the individual ad agencies.

He added, however, that getting the critique of foreign judges "establishes a forum to have the issues exposed and talked about to lay the groundwork for changes that can be made in the future."

The Araw Awards is the highlight of the Advertising Congress.

Lopez said an additional 1,000 people from the advertising industry bought tickets to attend the ceremonies held last Friday for radio and Saturday for TV and interactive media.

During Friday's session, radio, TV, print and cinema groups made separate pitches for their respective media as the best advertising venue.

Piyush Pandey from India showed various Indian ads that have made it to the international market.

He talked about "Can a third world country become a creative powerhouse?" He pointed out that local advertising agencies might actually be in a

WHY/ B3

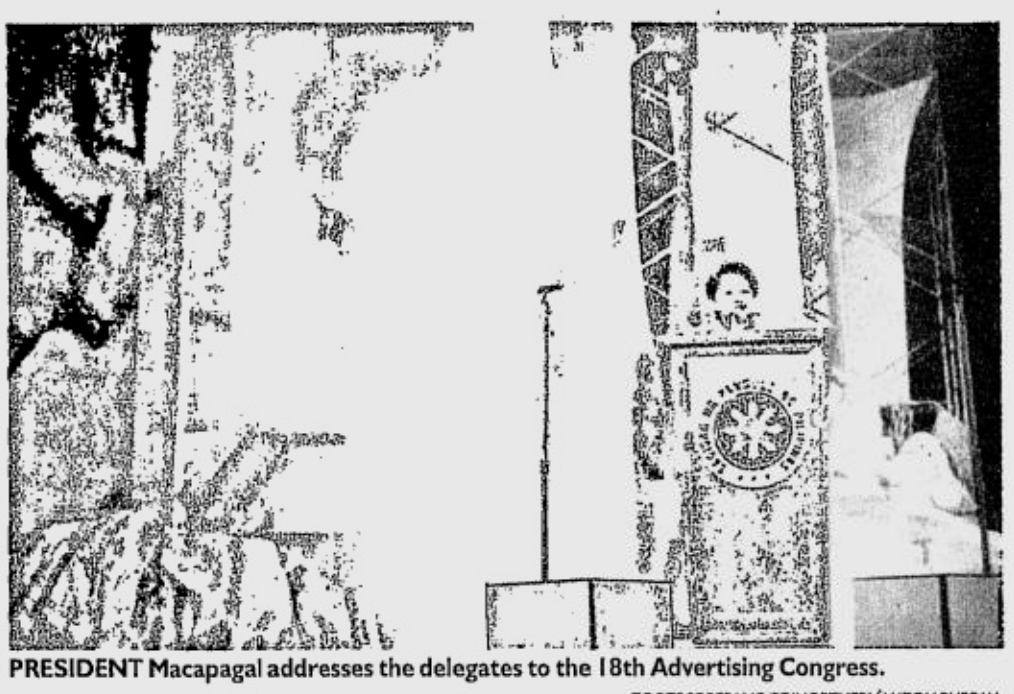
Go back to the basics, get the next big idea

By Jeffrey Joe Pe-Aguirre
Contributor

GETTING that big idea is a long and painstaking process that begins with re-thinking the basics.

This was the thread that unified the first five sessions of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) held at Camp John Hay, Baguio City.

Congruent with this year's PAC theme "What's The Big Idea?" advertising and media experts broke down prevailing mindsets in their industries and challenged the participants to reassess how their respective companies provide value to their customers.



PRESIDENT Macapagal addresses the delegates to the 18th Advertising Congress.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDINORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Basics of branding

Advertising author and creative director Jim Aitchison noted in his session entitled "Big Ideas In Advertising" that consumers today are better educated, more marketing literate, and more wary of being manipulated through advertising.

As such, those in the creative departments must have a better understanding of brands, branding and brand-building for their agencies to remain relevant to their clients.

"Remember that the brand is bigger than a 30-second commercial. What's the use of a great 30-seconder when customers have to queue for 60 minutes? The way the phones are answered, how service calls are handled, the packaging, staff uniforms, toilets... all contribute to how customers perceive the brand," said Aitchinson.

Aitchison said brand-building was a largely emotional and intuitive process very much similar to establishing relationships between people.

In closing, Aitchison highlighted changes in the advertising industry that will have far-reaching ramifications on profitability, account servicing, and job security: media independents, once focused on providing print, radio and TV ad spots at negotiated rates, are now doing creative work, and the advent of "payment by results" arrangements where agencies share the risks of the client because they are paid on the basis of whether the corporate targets of the ad campaign are met or not.

Basics of creatives

German advertising executive Chris von Selle gave valuable tips on how to facilitate the creative process in his talk "From Systems to Soul."

He emphasized that a creative job extends beyond office hours since artists and copywriters are constantly thinking of and looking for advertising solutions even as they live out their private lives.

"Relax," von Selle suggested. "When you think of an idea you say, 'I have an idea' and not 'I made an idea.' That's because the idea just pops in."

According to von Selle, relaxing allows the creative person to get in touch with the subconscious which is the wellspring of great ideas.

He encouraged creatives to be naïve. He advised creatives to follow the example of a child asking all the fundamental questions, even if the answers are hard to come by. This was a fitting segue to his next tip which was to be curious.

Von Selle said companies with in-house advertising and public relations departments should assess whether these units are really equipped to handle multi-faceted communications needs ranging from pushing products to corporate advocacy.

Citing Stephen Spielberg as an example, von Selle underlined the need for expertise and specialization by pointing out that the multi-awarded director does not use the same team for every movie each time out. Rather, Spielberg assembles a specialized cast and technical crew specifically suited to each movie rather than sticking to a single team.

Finally, von Selle challenged agencies to be serious because, after all, humor is not the only emotion in advertising.

TNT executive Steve Marcopoto spoke on

GO/ B4

Doing good is its own reward in today's world

"Anyway"
By Kent M. Keith
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2001

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EXECUTIVE READ

ONCE in a rare while, a book enters the scene and—in an instant - endears itself to every reader for its sheer ability to inspire. Actually, one word stands out in this book—communicating an attitude of obstinacy in one breath and a certain fatalistic carefree-ness the next: Anyway.

It is also the title of the book, which begins with an obvious truth, but which does not fail still to jolt us: "The world is crazy. The world really doesn't make sense."

It has "Ten Paradoxical Commandments," called so by the author, because he wants readers to "find personal meaning in a crazy world."

"It's a paradox," author Kent M. Keith says, a word that begs for a definition. And Keith dutifully defines: "A paradox is an idea that is contrary to popular opinion, something that seems to contradict common sense and yet is true."

Mind you, that definition is the only difficult part in this book— if at all. The rest is simply edifying and pure inspiration—so powerful in tugging at the heartstrings that one "convert" has decided to use the commandments in a greeting card timed for Christmas! Another reader has it at the bedside as a wellspring of feel-good, if not noble, meditative thoughts.

The third commandment, for example, addresses the quandary of fast-rising executives slowed down by low achieving friends and envious competitors: "If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway."

This chapter invents the "positional friend" as distinguished from the "true" and the "false." A positional friend "is a friend of your position of power or influence. He was the friend of the last person to have your position, and he will be the friend of the next person to have your position."

Now you don't get disappointed when this "friend" abandons you when you lose your job. This is a liberating thought.

Just as the author says, when you can accept the Paradoxical Commandments, it is "your personal declaration of independence."

All through the book, Keith speaks of "meaning" and "freedom." You find meaning—and experience exhilarating freedom —while doing good, building sand castles or organizations, being honest and vulnerable, helping people and giving the world your best.

"If you can find personal meaning without the world's applause, you are free," Keith declares. Recall colleagues at work who find joy in simply creating things and building morale—but don't crave attention. Doing good, as they say, is its own reward.

That's being true to your self, a virtue that must be learned and relearned in the corporate world. The book tells a story of a young Egyptian foreman who was closely supervising the laying of the foundation for one of the pyramids, one brick at a time—re-working some for precise alignment.

Another foreman, watching the painstaking process, reminded the perfectionist colleague: "The foundation will all be under the ground. Nobody will ever know." To such comment, the young foreman looked up, and simply said: "I will know."

That's honesty—and the book has a suitable commandment: "Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway."

Ideas are interspersed by stories in this book, illuminating every thought.

There are times when we build something, introduce a concept in a company, and then once we are gone, such a concept is replaced almost as quickly. Is your building effort a waste? No, says the author. As in building a sand sculpture, Keith says: "The joy does not depend on the permanence of what you build."

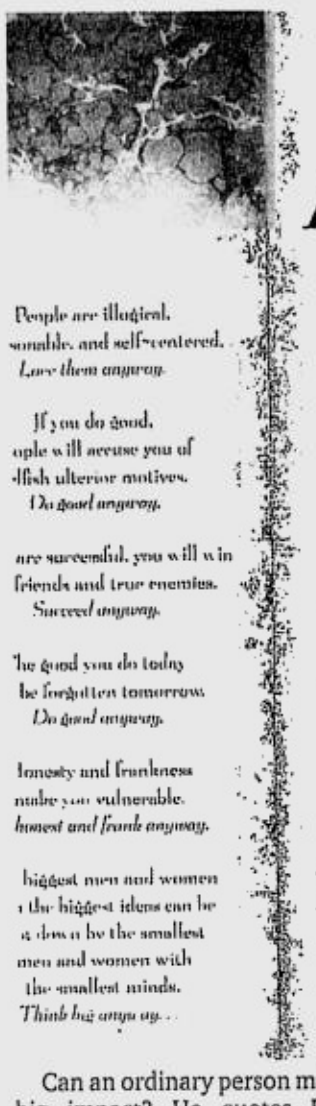
This is a timely thought for "creators" in knowledge industries.

"What we contribute is soon superseded by the next discovery, the next truth, the next technological breakthrough. In organizational life, what we accomplish can fade away... But that doesn't change what you accomplished. You did something you can remember with pride and pleasure." (Of course, it is important, especially in the spiritual sense, to help build something that lasts forever-like the soul of the child.)

Gary Cooper's story, in the movie "High Noon," is recalled in the book. As Kane the Lawman, he had to face three vengeful former prisoners. He fought alone, while the people of the town he had helped in many ways just folded their arms. Is he disillusioned? Maybe, but he gave his best—anyway. Thus the tenth paradoxical commandment: "Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway."

The author does not recommend that all of us must—or can—aspire to be great leaders who can contribute something big for country and people. He points out that one can make a difference in his own little way.

He argues this point: "In the final analysis, who really has the most impact? Local, national and international leaders have a small impact on many people. Parents, relatives, and friends can have a big impact on a few people."



Anyway

The Paradoxical Commandments

Finding Personal Meaning in a Crazy World

KENT M. KEITH
Foreword by
SPENCER JOHNSON, M.D.

Can an ordinary person make a big impact? He quotes Emily Dickinson: *"If I can stop one Heart from breaking/ I shall not live in vain/ If I can ease one Life the Aching/ Or cool one Pain/ Or help one fainting Robin/ Unto his Nest again/ I shall not live in vain."*

Impact, if we believe poet Dickinson, is not decided by numbers-but by depth and intensity.
(dantemv@i-next.net)

Success in business takes more than a college degree, capital

By Amy R. Remo
(First of two parts)

WITH so many business ventures closing down almost as soon as they open, entrepreneurs now know that it takes more than a college degree or enough capital for their businesses to be successful.

One needs to have patience, dedication and that so-called entrepreneurial flair to keep the business thriving.

Entrepreneur Magazine recently picked 10 of the most successful entrepreneurs from a list of 35 owners of small and medium enterprises.

They were selected according to economic and market performances, employment standards and social responsibility.

These 10 owners have shown what it really means to be a successful entrepreneur.

Julie's Bakeshop

In its 22 years of existence, Julie's Bakeshop has long expanded from selling cheesebread in its first branch in Mandaue City to offering around 200 bread varieties in 320 stores nationwide.

Roberto Gandionco says the bakeshop business grew to be the biggest bakery chain in the Philippines because they were "conservative" and did not waste money.

Another reason is that they "constantly reinvent products to suit the changing tastes of (the) market." As a market leader, product improvement is a must.

Robert's mother, Julie Ramon-Gandionco opened Julie's bakeshop in 1981, initially intended to supply bread to three corporate canteens. Upon seeing its profitability, Julie decided to open a branch in Cebu City.

It was strictly a family business then. Julie would lend money to one of her children to open a branch on the condition that he would pay back what he owed once the bakeshop started making profit.

The repayment was used as seed capital for the other siblings to put up their own branches. With this strategy, Julie grew her chain to 10 stores in three years with practically zero bank borrowings and minimal cash outlays.

But it was Robert who paved the way for franchising when in 1987, he developed a business model, which allowed family members to form joint ventures with relatives and close friends.

With the business fast growing, Robert hired a consultant in 1995 to effectively handle the franchising business. This ensured standardization in training employees, coupled with an operations manual to guide franchisees.

The Gandioncos still strictly kept their expansions self-financed. From the idea of repayment, the Gandioncos now initially set 10 percent of the net income from each branch as a common fund for future expansion.

To ensure that the business is propagated the same way the Gandioncos have had it for 22 years, they recently hired a human resources consultant to "develop and propagate a corporate culture."

"We want to have a culture that is deeply entrenched in the organization... new managers will have to adapt to the corporate culture and not the other way around," says Robert.

Lots' A Pizza

It was a risk that that Tess Ngan Tian took when she finally decided to concentrate on selling pizza instead of sandwiches, siopao and softdrinks.

But it was risk that bore 14-company-owned stores and 30 franchised outlets of Lots' A Pizza.

To prepare for the venture, Ngan Tian enrolled in a pizza technology course at the American Institute of Baking in the US in 1996, so she could develop her own crust and dough concoctions.

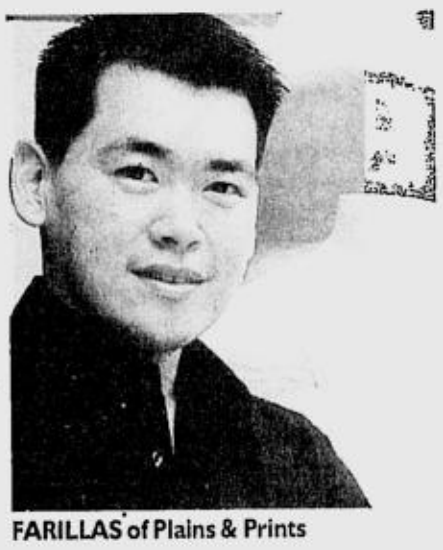
She also made it to a point to subscribe to technical bulletins and to regularly attend Pizza Expos in the US to keep herself abreast of the latest developments in pizza making. She even consulted a dough doctor to come up with the right crust for her pizzas.

After much trial and error, Ngan Tian was able to develop sauces and crust that are truly her own.

Ngan Tian decided not to compete with big pizza outlets such as Shakey's and Pizza Hut, but instead, aimed for the middle-income market dominated by 3M and Fiesta.

She built a niche in this market by offering delicious yet very affordable pizzas for as low as P30 (6-inch) to P199 (14-inch).

To expand their outlets, Ngan Tian decided to franchise Lots' A Pizza in 1999, at the advice of Butz Bartolome of GMB Franchise Developers Inc. and her husband, Ed. It turned out to be a wise business decision.


FARILLAS of Plains & Prints

Ngan Tian says that it was because of her family, relatives and her two cooks that she was able to pull this off.

Her son Robert oversees the franchising business while her in-laws inspect the outlets, audit sales reports, supervise the crew and report problems to headquarters.

Her two 'secret weapon' cooks, Carling and Merly Lucanas, have helped the business grow during its first years in the business with their constant experimenting and skills in cooking.

Next year, Ngan Tian plans to bring in a dough doctor to improve her pizza dough as well as to come up with new products that will keep Lots' A Pizza ahead of its competitors.

Plains & Prints

Plains & Prints started as a simple 10-square-meter store at Greenhills Shoppesville Plus in 1994.

Nine years later, it has become one of the most well-known clothing stores in the country with its 18 company-owned stores and 5 franchise outlets.

Owner Erickson Farillas says it was all because of "patience, hard work and proper timing." His wife Roxanne then helped sell the clothes they had both designed and sewn up.

Plains & Prints sells clothes, shoes, belt and bags although accessories are on a limited basis. Recently, their line expanded to selling perfume and underclothes.

The company makes its own dyes and patterns and uses only the best materials. It is also one of the few retailers that had maintained their production in the country since most local clothes shops have outsourced their production to China and Hong Kong.

Over the years, the apparel shop has grown mainly through word-of-mouth and has created a loyal following among female shoppers.

According to Roxanne, they kept in touch with their customers by constantly studying their needs and talking to them to know their preferences.

In 2002, the couple decided to put a face in their brand with Gretchen Barretto as its signature model because of their decision to expand and go into franchising.

According to Roxanne, getting an endorser worked for them as it "boosted sales and created further brand awareness."

To keep customers coming back, Plains & Prints has created a "before-sales service" known as Fashion Rx, an interactive software application developed to provide shoppers clothing analysis based on their weight, height, clothing, skin tone, clothing preferences and body shape.

LLENADO of Ahead Learning Systems

The couple plans to install a computer with the Fashion Rx program in each store to help customers not only to choose clothes that fit them, but also to develop shoppers' own fashion sense and urge them to come back to the store for more.

Reyes Haircutters

"Filipinos love to look good."

Les Reyes and his family, banking on Filipinos' natural vanity, have been in the salon business for years.

But Reyes took one step ahead of his competitors when he tapped the C, D and E markets, offering first class salon services at mass-market prices at Reyes Haircutters.

The so-called "Salon ng Bayan" carved a niche in the salon industry when Reyes gave the lower-income classes a chance to avail of high quality salon services such as hot oil and foot spa, with prices easy on their pockets.

Dropping his prices did not mean he sacrificed the quality of his services. Reyes says he makes sure his customers leave satisfied. Customer satisfaction, after all, keeps the business thriving.

To ensure the competence of his staff, Reyes gives his employees at least one month training before assigning them to the different branches. He also regularly enrolls his staff in beauty salon courses to keep them abreast of the latest trends.

He says he does this to make sure that his employees know how to perform their services efficiently.

Reyes also gave his salons a classy yet comfortable ambience in the inside but toned it down from the outside by posting huge signs at the glass walls, indicating what services they offer and for how much.

Reyes says he did this to lure potential customers from the low-income group.

These strategies worked so well it was also enough to attract salon aficionados from the A and B classes. As Reyes had put it, "who could resist a P49.99 haircut?"

Soon enough, his success led him to franchising the business. To date, he has 15-company owned branches and 140 franchise outlets. He attributes this franchising success to the low franchising fee of P250,000.

Reyes also plans to open stores in the US in the near future.

"I want Reyes Haircutters to become a brand synonymous with affordable but high-quality salon service. I want it to be the country's Salon ng Bayan," says Reyes.

NGAN TIAN of Lots' A Pizza

Ahead Learning Systems

People often thought that tutorial centers are for the slow learners or those who failed their subjects. But Ahead Learning Systems shows that its services are also for students who want to stay as top of their classes.

In 1995, Rossanna Llenado, a full-time housewife, started her tutorial services at home, which later led to the opening a branch of the Laguna-based Brain Train Tutorial Review Center.

Seeing its success, Llenado decided to open her own tutorial center.

In 1997, Llenado opened her first branch of Ahead Tutorial and Review Center at Kapitolyo, Pasig. In a short, two years' time, it became the industry leader.

The reason behind this success, according to Llenado, was to break away from the pack and introduce innovations and improvements from what most review clinics usually offer.

Llenado relates that it was Ahead that pioneered review courses aimed specifically for entrance exams of University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University.

Ahead was also the first to publish reviewers for the UP College Admission Test, career guides and a manual on 10 of Metro Manila's best colleges and universities.

The courses' effectiveness can be gauged with the entrance exams results. According to Llenado, 85 percent of their students pass these college exams.

Most of Ahead's tutorial centers are located in the malls to be more accessible, unlike other centers, which are built near schools. It has branches in Robinsons Mall in Ortigas Center, SM Megamall, Greenhills and Quezon City.

Llenado adds that Ahead's teachers are handpicked. She says she taps young top graduates of the best universities and colleges to be a teacher even for a year or two.

With these, Ahead is able to remain true to its objective, which was to provide students the best programs, instructors and facilities.

Although Ahead charges as much as P7,000 for their courses, compared to other learning centers that charge only P3,000, Ahead continues to be patronized by most parents and students.

"We believe that we offer a much reasonable price because we go for quality in each of our courses," says Llenado.

(To be continued)

(The article is based on the November issue of Entrepreneur Magazine, which featured the 10 most successful entrepreneurs.)

REYES of Reyes Haircutters

GANDIONCO of Julie's Bakeshop

Couple heeds call for unique living room pieces

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE WAY a living room is arranged and furnished can make or break a good impression on the entire house, simply because it is usually the first, and sometimes the only, area of the house that a guest will get to see.

Young couple Eugene and Marga Lorenzana were among those who believed that the living room was one of the most important parts of the house, but when their turn came to go looking for the perfect sofa or living room pieces for their home, local stores ended up wanting.

There were stores that matched their passion for tasteful home furnishings but the price tags were too steep. Others, on the other hand, sold affordable living room sets but came short of what they had in mind for their dream home.

Eugene and Marga then thought that there must be other couples and individuals out there who were likewise finding it hard to balance their limited budgets with a desire for style. Sitting Room was thus born to fill the wide gap.

The Sitting Room at 237 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.) was opened last year, becoming the first and only furniture store so far to specialize in living room fixtures.

The store used to be a two-story house, which was converted into a furniture showroom with the high ceilings, exposed beams, pebble-washed floors and heavy wooden fixtures retained to give the store that homey feel.

"We wanted to create a store that felt like a home, not an antiseptic showroom behind glass walls, but a place that reminded our customers of their own homes. They can then easily envision our pieces being placed in their own living room," Marga tells the INQUIRER.

Eugene and Marga personally choose each piece that goes into the Sitting Room and they pick from among the best styles of leather and fabric sofas, imported from Asia and the European Union using the best raw materials from the US and Europe.

"We only choose pieces we love, whether vintage or current. Putting things together, old and new, so that they work well is part of the challenge," Eugene explains.

The sofas come in a variety of styles—classic, soft modern, modern, leather collection and sectionals.

The classic sofas, with mostly European designs, are relatively large and marked by rolled arms, deep cushions and high backs. Hardwood legs provide sturdy support and customers can choose from a variety of tailored slipcovers using plush fabrics in a variety of hues to reflect their personality.

Soft modern sofas, on the other hand, blend classic lines and modern materials. The arms are curvy and legs are made of wood like the classics but the fabrics are more modern such as ultrasuede. These sofas are also not as large as the classic sets.

Modern sofas, meanwhile, are quite popular among urban dwellers and young professionals due to their sleek profiles and neat forms, as well as the modern materials like chrome legs. The sizes are also small enough to fit in the small living areas of condominiums.

The Sitting Room's leather collection boasts of full-grain leather pieces from Italy. These pieces are as supple and soft as they are richly elegant. The polished surface, distinct scent and softness explain the enduring appeal of these pieces.

Sectional pieces refer to modern, straight and functional sofas that can be played around with to fit limited spaces. Sectionals are available in both left and right side angles.

"The frames of all our furniture pieces are kiln-dried so that the bottom of the sofas are as durable as the outside and we use either spring coils or high-density foam from the US for our sofas," Marga says.

MARGA Lorenzana says Sitting Room was born to serve the local demand for a new kind of furniture. BETOY JOHNSON

Nicely setting off the sofas are the assortment of tables, chairs and other wooden furniture that can be custom designed to fit individual tastes. Done in narra, ipil, kamagong, mahogany or teak, the designs and graceful finish enhance the timeless appeal of these pieces, perfect complements to the sofas.

Sitting Room has also brought in natural fiber rugs that come in a selection of borders and sizes. Among the most popular are the rugs made of sisal, the most durable of all natural fibers that comes from Africa and Central America. Rugs made of Indian jute are also available.

There are also several art pieces, unique lamps and pottery available for sale to finish off the look of a living room.

There are paintings by Egay Fernandez, glass sculpture by Rosario Arcilla, kinetic sculpture by Arnel Borja, lamps by Wendy Fernando-Regalado and pottery by Lanelle Fernando.

"We really wanted to focus on the living room and we also differentiate ourselves from the market by being as flexible as possible. We can, for example, custom size our wood pieces according to our clients' specifications and they can choose from different fabrics to suit their taste," Marga says.

But the main attraction is still offering the best furniture at the right price, which is the philosophy behind the setting up of the Sitting Room.

Why marketing folks spend tons on the Ad Congress

From page B1

better position to create good ads because "you have no baggage and no one to report to," giving them a free hand in the development of ads.

Reactions to this year's Congress were mixed.

Bert Joaquin, a VP for Ace Saatchi and Saatchi said he was happy with the sessions because they provided him with a view of the changes in the advertising industry.

"It's a gauge of what's going on in the different aspects of the industry," Joaquin said.

Jones T. Campos, VP for Globe Telecom, said the Congress "allows you to take stock of what you have done, especially your successes and shortcomings, vis-a-vis the industry. You also learn how your competitors are faring. It serves as a benchmark and redirects your advertising campaigns."

He added that another benefit was that the Congress provided a view of the new technologies in advertising.

"It is in the ad congress where you get updated on technology. The trend is to really outsource your needs," he said.

Emily Abrera, chair of McCann Erickson Phils., the largest ad ageny in the country, commented that the Ad Congress was "a learning forum."

"In the past, it was a junket. But professionals today attend the sessions to refresh their knowledge and acquaintances, talk about issues, recognize creativity. For some, it's still a junket. Others go there to survey the competition or to see who is worth pirating," she said.

As in other conferences, the problem was in ensuring that the delegates attended the sessions. Some of the sessions were attended by only half of the delegates.

Those who shelled out the most for maximum exposure during the Congress included Smart Communications Co. Inc., which displayed streamers from Pangasinan to Baguio. Smart also paid many *sari sari* stores in Baguio to put up streamers. Even trash bins at John Hay were pasted with Smart stickers. It also sponsored a dinner. The telecom firm was estimated to have spent over P5 million for the Ad Congress.

Its main competitor, Globe Telecom, was very low-key.

It sponsored a golf event with RPN-9 for P600,000. San Miguel was also a big sponsor providing drinks for all the meals.

Raffle prizes were numerous. ABS-CBN raffled off cash prizes worth P50,000 with the 50th winner winning P250,000. MBC brought in international artist Stephen Bishop and raffled off over 30 appliances.

GMA-7, on the other hand, raffled off cash prizes worth P10,000, P20,000, P50,000, P100,000 and P500,000, and a brand new Toyota Vios.

The INQUIRER sponsored a lunch yesterday and raffled off over P500,000 worth of cash prizes.

Firm makes a name in metal engraving industry

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

THE ENTRY of machines that are on the cutting edge of technology has paved the way for the distribution of unique products to the market.

Metaza is one of the many local companies that took advantage of these new technologies and is now making a name for itself in the personalized metal engraving business.

Its machines allow Metaza to engrave photographs on gold and silver plated pendants and other accessories and these products have sold well since it started operations in August 2001, with only a small cart at the Robinson's Place Manila.

STAR bookmark

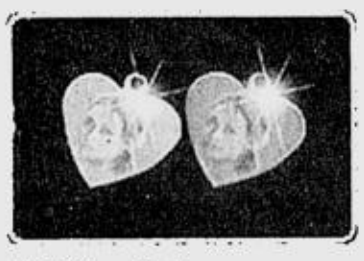
Metaza's marketing and sales head Mae Abasolo says the customers' response during the first month was very encouraging.

This led the company to open its second outlet, a kiosk at the SM Megamall.

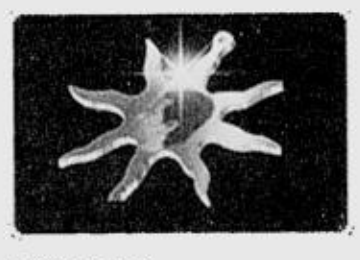
Metaza became Metaza Collections when it expanded its product lines in 2002. Aside from pictures, logos and texts can also be engraved on the pendants, which are best for necklaces and bracelets, even for key chains and cellular phone accessories.

BONE tag

SQUARE plate with stand



HEART pendant



SUN pendant

Abasolo says companies are its top customers although Metaza caters to all ages.

"Our target market is everyone ... family, friends, lovers and individuals," Abasolo relates.

Metaza's products are a hit with customers because of the Filipinos' penchant for personalized items.

"It's not a fad," Abasolo stresses.

3-step process

Photo engraving is done in three easy steps: scanning, layouting and printing.

First, pictures are scanned or taken right at the store. The graphic artist will then edit and layout the scanned photos, after which the engraving machine will print the photo and text on the preferred pendants.

The procedure takes about an hour to finish. Abasolo says it's what they call photo engraving "while you wait."

"Materials are all imported," she adds.

Designs

Metaza started with 20 pendant styles and designs. Today, it has about 50 designs that cater to every customer's taste such as dog tags, butterflies, crosses, foot prints and skull pendants.

Music lovers can have guitar-shaped pendants while golf enthusiasts can opt for personalized tee removers and golf tags. Baby pendants are also available for kids. Even your pet dogs and cats will love the bone and cat tags with their names on it.

"So, it's not only for humans, it's also for animals," Abasolo says.

Metaza also offers personalized bookmarks with photo engraving, aluminum stickers and round and square plates with a wooden stand, where one can have their family pictures engraved to serve as a miniature desk portrait.

"Our best selling items are the heart, oval, sun and butterfly silver pendants," shares Abasolo. She adds that these pendants can last for years.

Metaza's creative team designs the pendants while the research and development team continues to come up with new styles to suit the shifting tastes of the market. As a result, Metaza is able to come up with new designs every quarter.

Prices

Pendants of any shape cost P250 with a maximum of three images or text messages. Additional photos cost P50 per image. Plates range from P450-P750. Pendant accessories like necklaces, bracelets and chains are also available at reasonable prices.

December is peak season for Metaza, says Abasolo. Valentine's Day comes second with the heart-shaped pendant as the best-selling item.

Metaza has joined several school fairs and selling events, thus gaining followers from the A to D market. Even local celebrities like Aiza Seguerra and Gelli de Belen have become fans of Metaza Collections, Abasolo relates.

A PENDANT is being readied for engraving.

A graphic artist and a sales assistant man every Metaza store. Metaza makes an average of 15-20 pendants a day, which goes up to 50-75 pendants in December.

Metaza has 21 branches located in major malls in Metro Manila and in the provinces and more stores are expected to open soon.

Go back to basics, get the next big idea

From page B1

"International Media" and bared the trends in the US and Europe.

TV basics

He cited how new forms of technology such as video games, broadband Internet access, high-definition television, and personal recorders are achieving higher penetration in American homes and grabbing TV-viewing time.

Marcopoto referred to studies showing that the video game industry in the US right now is already out-grossing all the major Hollywood studios combined. As gamers allocate up to 50 hours to a game before they are satiated, TV programs are losing valuable "eyeballs."

Marcopoto lengthily discussed the TiVO brand of personal video recorders which have a controversial 30-second skip (not a fast-forward but an instant 30-second jump) button - a bane to advertising and advertisers as viewers can instantly zip past the ads for recorded shows.

A study presented by Marcopoto revealed that 49 percent of owners would rather give up their mobile phones than their TiVO; and 98 percent said they could not live without their TiVO.

The entry of alternative forms of media, however, is not entirely a bane to traditional television and TV advertising, according to Marcopoto. He predicted that news and sports will continue to enjoy considerable veiwership since the content is best watched live.

The one million TiVO units out in the market that can store a plethora of viewing data will revolutionize monitoring of viewing habits taking TV research out of its current state wherein data gathered from only a small sample is extrapolated over a huge population.

In the face of new competition, Marcopoto left a message of hope, saying that great ideas, great ads, and great programs can continue to arrest the attention of present viewers. High-definition television, though feeding on-demand programming, also gives advertisers and their agencies a new medium best suited to playing cutting-edge ads with crisp production values.

Basics of print

Three-decade print media veteran Cyril Pereira, chair of the Society of Publishers in Asia, urged print media to see beyond the standard measurements of reach, circulation, and ad rates and look at "trust" as the new value proposition.

Pereira observed that the world is suffering from a "trust-deficit" in the wake of the large-scale political and business scandals that have rocked it. He goes to to say that people today are looking at the press as the last bastion of public trust.

Pereira said that print media is now at a critical crossroads wherein it can either go down to the masses or zero in on the higher economic strata and trim down waste in product distribution.

According to him, the business model for newspapers is to sell reach and CPM (advertising parlance for cost per thousand), target circulation and readership growth, after which ad rates are hiked.

Also, the content, since it is largely determined through the intuition of editors, is passive; there is little sensitivity to the design or 'look' of the newspaper; and the ads are cluttered leaving little clue to their effectiveness.

Pereira's new model calls for newspapers to sell themselves as a brand leveraging, first and foremost, on a reputation of credibility that has earned "public trust."

"Advertising in quality press bestows credibility on quality brands and messages. Consumers are not cynical of commercial information in quality press," he said.

A sophisticated look and high production values, a pronounced A and B market reach, and an interactive multi-channel feedback mechanism that helps determine press content are also the hallmarks of this new newspaper model.

Basic human values

For Campaigns and Grey founder Yoly Ong and ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez, going back to the basics not only refers to marketing and advertising but also going back to fundamental human values.

In the final session of the first day of the 18th PAC, the two respected local women icons of advocacy teamed up for a session on "Social Responsibility and Advocacy Advertising", challenging companies to look beyond their bottom lines and craft their corporate souls.

Ong told the delegates that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is not a fad but a phenomenon that has come of age and is here to stay, as more and more consumers demand that the products they purchase should meet certain ethical standards.

CSR, Ong said, is a great opportunity for companies to add value to their brands not only by projecting an image of integrity, honesty and social problem-solving but also in terms of market share and the bottom line.

She cited studies showing that socially conscious consumers are willing to pay a premium for products that are produced without ethical compromises. Furthermore, CSR builds community ties; increases morale, loyalty, and, subsequently, the productivity of employees, and attracts top-notch applicants.

Ong left a powerful closing message by telling participants that the most pressing, most urgent advocacy right now is, "Can the Philippines be saved?"

After running down the perennial problems of politicking, corruption, declining quality of education, and inadequate commercial and agricultural infrastructure, Ong pinpointed selfishness, apathy and a lack of consideration for the greater good as the culprits for the Philippines being a basket case.

Thus, the need for media and companies, through their corporate social responsibility arms, to work together and change the prevailing culture and attitudes if the Philippines is to be saved.

And from the presentation of Lopez, which immediately followed Ong's, it was clear that such cooperation has begun.

Lopez reported on the success of ABS-CBN Foundation projects such as Bantay-Bata, Bantay Usok, the La Mesa watershed and educational television (ETV).

Lopez gave numerous examples of how local and multi-national companies have worked together with her foundation not only to project a positive image to the public but to concretely contribute to alleviating poverty and uplifting the educational standards of the youth.

She proposed that there is "no way for democracy to work if our people are not educated," and solicited corporate support for their ETV advocacy which provides schools in indigent areas with interactive education materials, the necessary hardware to play these materials, and teacher training.

She also bared plans for an environmental theme park, the centerpiece of which will be a lagoon where patrons can go boating and fishing. The proceeds of this environmental theme park will fund the continuous care of the trees planted to reforest the La Mesa watershed.

An old Chinese adage has it that a thousand-mile journey begins with one step. The speakers during the first day of the 18th PAC seemed to agree.

From advertising to media to social responsibility, the big idea in facing up to the problems plaguing the industry and the nation is to break down the present paradigm into manageable bits and tracing the way back to the source.

Anyone who takes this journey will find that while technology has revised some of the industry basics, the time-tested tenet of providing value to customers has remained the same. That value can be a product, a sterling advertisement, or even taking up the cudgels for a worthwhile cause.

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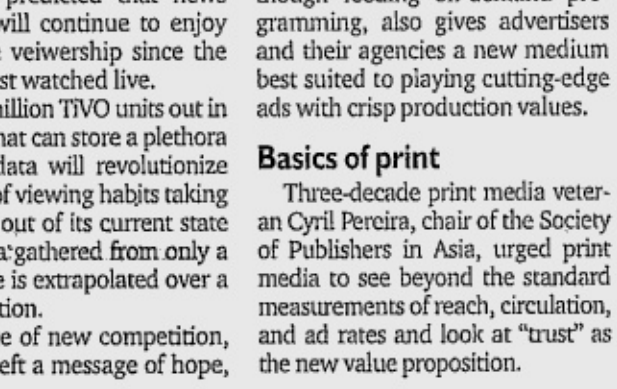

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Nov. 26 - 29, 2003 Legazpi City, Albay

TO REGISTER, contact DR. RUFO R. MENDOZA, Chair, Annual National Convention at PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, tel. no. 723-0691 to 95, fax no. 723-6305, email picpa@qinet.net.

Nov. 26 (Wednesday) - Motorcade, Courtesy Call to Governor and Mayor, Annual Planning Conference, Opening of Fair and Exhibits, Sportsfest, Reunion of PICPA National Officers and Directors

Nov. 27 (Thursday) - Mass, Opening Ceremonies with Hon. Raul S. Roco, former Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, as Keynote Speaker, Luncheon Meeting with Senator Ralph G. Recto and Mayor Vilma Santos Recto as Guest Speakers, People at Work Level Seminar Series, Educators' Forum: "Issues and Concerns that Affect the Accounting Profession" with Board of Accountancy Chairman Atty. Eugene T. Mateo, ASC Interpretation Committee Chairman David L. Balangue, Legislation and By-Laws Chairman Atty. Abelardo T. Domondon, PICPA Education Sector Chair Dean Ester F. Ledesma as speakers

Nov. 28 (Friday) - Technical Session 2: "Accounting Net (e Procurement)" with Hon. Emilia T. Boncodin (Secretary, Department of Budget and Management), Carol E. Carreon (Vice-Chair, Bayan Trade Dolcom, Inc.) as speakers, Technical Session 3: "Financial Instruments (IAS 32 and 39)" with Mike R. Aguilar (Head of Global Market, Standard Chartered), Wilson P. Tan (Partner, SGV&Co.) as speakers, Luncheon Meeting with Hon. Guillermo N. Carague (Chairman, Commission on Audit) as speaker, Technical Session 4 "Raising the Bar of Excellence for a Better Philippines" with Sonny B. Coloma (Professor, Asian Institute of Management), Guillermo M. Luz (Executive Director, Makati Business Club), Victoria P. Garchitorena (President, Ayala Foundations) Edward I. Ferrera (President, Management Association of the Philippines) as speakers and Atty. Oscar M. Orbos (Former Governor, Province of Pangasinan) and Solita Monsod (GMA 7 TV Host) as moderators, Annual Business Meeting, Closing Plenary Session, Mayor's Night, Chapter/Regional Presentations

Nov. 29 (Saturday) - City/Provincial Tours

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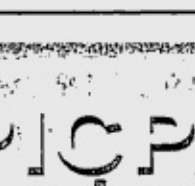
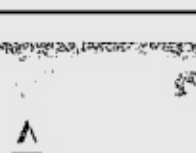


Reyes



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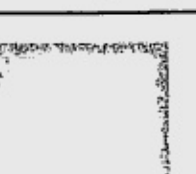

Tunay

Session 1: Developing and Discovering Your Passion in Life by Regina Galang Reyes, Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work Editor; Session 2: Getting Ahead at Work Without Leaving Your Family Behind by An Morcado Alcantara, ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. Deputy Editorial Director; Session 3: Creativity for Continuous Competitiveness by Teresa Reyes Tunay, Blue Collar Magazine Editor-in-Chief*

The People at Work Live! Seminar Series is part of the convention and also open to the public. To register for the seminar series, contact the PICPA Albay Chapter - Abner Ty, tel. no. (052) 820-8477, (052) 481-1253, fax no. (052) 820-6280; PICPA Laguna Chapter - Grace Padlan, tel/fax no. (632) 868-7662; Sally Pangilinan, tel. no. (632) 847-5759; Lina Dilao, tel. no. (632) 897-4386 local 2151.

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Cooperative makes Mindoro women productive

SABLAYAN, Occidental Mindoro—A cooperative here which started with 36 market vendors now counts 2,652 stakeholders.

Majority of its members are women who, with financial and technical assistance, are no longer just child-bearers but also an economically-productive sector of the community.

Socialization activities also pulled out these women from the confines of their home.

The Sablayan Market Vendors Multi-purpose Cooperative or Sabvemco started as an association on October 21, 1992. It was registered with the Securities Exchange Commission in 1989 and converted into a cooperative registered with the Cooperative Development Authority.

A model cooperative in the Municipality of Sablayan, Sabvemco's membership has expanded to include residents from the neighboring towns of Mamburao, Sta. Cruz and Abra.

Its full-time staff now numbers 37, membership is 223 and has 2,429 associate members. The associates have the same privileges as the full-pledged members except the right to vote.

In 2000, the Provincial Cooperatives Development Council awarded the Sabvemco as the most outstanding among more than 200 cooperatives in the province.

Management

Laura Vidal used to be a local government employee detailed in the public market since 1992. She is now the chair of Sabvemco's board of trustees.

Vidal attributes the increase in their membership to fair treatment among the members and real concern for the poor.

"The management and board of directors are united" she claimed, adding that dialogues have helped resolve conflict cases.

The cooperative also maintains good relationship with the barangays.

"Vices like drugs and gambling are prohibited among the members," says its manager Luis Bonabon.

He adds that because the cooperative's budget has improved, the members' children are able to go to school.

Bonabon also says that about 85 percent of the members are successful businessmen.

Ruby Carro, a dried fish vendor at the start, now has a grocery store and a meat store.

Through the Grameen style banking project, another member who used to be a banana cue vendor learned how to avail herself of loan and save. She has put up her own store.

An ice cream vendor whose main asset used to be a refrigerator now has her own freezer and delivers products to several schools.

Another one who used to rent market space now has her own restaurant, vehicles and other catering facilities.

Success factor

Sabvemco didn't rush into giving out loans. It first strengthened its organization for the first two years. During the last quarter of 1992, it got a P200,000-loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). It borrowed another P500,000 from ADB-DTI after fully paying the first loan.

Now, Sabvemco borrowed a bigger amount from the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), a semi-government company.

Four years more, they will complete paying for the P9-million loan.

Their most recent members are Mangyans from Sitio Kulasisi in Barangay Arellano, at the foot of the mountain in Occidental Mindoro.

Cooperative bank

Sabvemco is also a member of the Occidental Mindoro Cooperative Bank (OMCB) with 32 other primaries or stockholders, which are in good standing with the CDA and Land Bank of the Philippines, which organized the cooperative bank.

From an initial capital of about P1.7 million in 1997, the OMCB now has total assets of P38.4 million and operates in the whole province of Occidental Mindoro. Its net income is P3.8 million.

The purposes of the OMCB are: to provide quality banking services in the countryside, to contribute in the economic development of the community through investment and employment generation, to enhance personal capabilities of employees through training and seminars for better client servicing, to ensure equitable and fair return of investments to stockholders and to serve the financial needs of small and medium enterprises. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

A TYPICAL working day at the Sablayan Market Vendors Multi-purpose Cooperative office.

Company holiday parties in again, but is the joy?

NEW YORK—Companies across the country may be shelling out more for their holiday parties this year, but don't count on employees being merry, a consulting company said on Monday.

"Employers apparently feel better about the future and will budget holiday parties slightly more toward steak than chicken," said outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

US companies are beginning to feel more confident about the current economic recovery, and, as a result, are throwing more festive holiday parties compared with the last two years, which were overshadowed by recession, layoffs and war.

However, the survey found that companies are choosing smaller and more intimate affairs rather than the large bashes thrown during the booming 1990s.

"We may never again return to the extravagant parties that became common during the high-flying bubble years of the late 1990s," said John Challenger, the top executive at Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

In New York, restaurant owners are still struggling to get through a city-wide recession.

"Business is a lot better than it was last year. But it's not even half way back to where it needs to be," said Michael Desiderio, managing director of Tavern on the Green, located in Central Park.

In his banquet business that would normally generate $18 to $20 million in revenues, Desiderio has found he has to be a lot more flexible for the holiday season.

"It's almost like you have to be Monty Hall, now. You have to be flexible, otherwise you'll be out of the running," he said.

Others say that company-sponsored holiday parties this year could have a somber tone given the number of families still struggling with unemployment.

"Companies feel embarrassed that they are making money now that they have stripped down to the bare bones, in terms of the number of employees. So, they want to give their employees that have lasted a feeling of family," psychologist syndicated columnist Dr. Joyce Brothers told Reuters.

Dr. Brothers believes some attempts by employers are half-hearted and come too soon after the traumatic effect of massive layoffs and the economic downturn that began about three years ago.

"Positive emotions at parties should be up, but we haven't got through all of our negative emotions to let in a lot of the light and joy." *Reuters*

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1 Condo / U-21-D Cleveland Twr Asiaworld City / FA-363 94	10,000,000
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2. Condo / Unit – 2807, AIC Gold Twr, Emerald Ave / FA-187 17	6,900,000
*** CCT in bank's name but land and common areas With Real estate taxes unpaid by developer ***	
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
3 1 sty / Lot-318-New-C-4-A-2-B Property Extn, GSIS Vill,Baesa Proj- 8 / LA-131 / FA-116	943,000
4. 2 Sty. Res'l / Lot-1-A, Unit-B Agnes St, Ideal Subd, Commonwealth LA-80 / FA-145	1,849,000
5 Resl Apt-10 Dr, 2-Sty /Castro Compound, Sta Lucia, Novaliches. LA-250 / FA-369	2,623,000
6. T'hse / Unit-A-2 Baler Luxury, T'hms, Baler cor. J. Luna Sts. SFDM. L A -163 / F A -244	3,700,000
7. 4 Sty H&L / # 394-A Sangandaan, N'ches. LA-218 / FA-721	4,100,000
8 3 Sty T'hse/L1-A Aibangbang Cor Bakawan Sts, Veterans Vill,Proj-7/ LA-53 10/FA-166 50	2,478,000
9 3 Sty Res'l Townhse /# 65-D Mapang-akit St, Pinahan L A - 61 / F A - 139	2,700,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
10 Lot-20 Blk -17, Jerusalem St Palmera Hills-5, Ulian /LA-120	399 000
11. Lot-79 Blk -38, Forest Hills Subd, Brgy San Isidro /LA-523	1,200,000
12 Lot / L-47 B-18 Park Ridge Est -3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	2,056,000
Cottonwoods Hts., Bayugo, Antipolo	
13 Lot/L6 B2 Cascades / LA-246	1,206 000
14 Lot / L-23 Blk-10 / LA - 266	1,435 000
15 Lot / L-21 Blk-2 / LA – 355	1,915,000
TAYTAY, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
16 2 Sty Res'l / Lot-1 Melon cor Guava Sts Dividend Homes San Juan. LA-185 / FA- 333	1,925,000
17. Res'l Lot / Lot 5-B Blk -2 St. Joseph St, Palmera Hills-3, Meto Galo,(via Tikling) LA-90	268,000
18. 2 Sty. Bldg / Lot 22 & 24, B-2 Rd lot-4, Ciudad Del Sol-2 Sta Ana LA-137 50 / FA-65	732,000
LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
19 H&L w/ S pool / L-10-C-6 Pansol Calamba (back of Monte Vista) LA-1,141 / FA-336	4,095,000
20. 2 Sty. Thse / Unit-2 Bellbart Elsol Villas T'hms , Poblacion Cabuyao LA-54 / FA-55	615,000
21 2 Sty Thse / Unit-4 Bellbart Elsol Villas T'hms , Poblacion Cabuyao LA-54 / FA-55	615,000
CAVITE (Springvlle Subd, Molino)	**MIN BID**
22 L-10 B-6, Bougainvilla St , Central Phase – 1 / L A – 70	319,000
23. L24 B-13 Agoho St , Central Phase – 2 / L A – 70	319,000
24. L-8 B-12, (near Agoho St), Central Phase-2 / L A – 180	820,000
25 L-10-B B-2, Rimas St , West Phase – 1 / L A – 71	291,000
26 L-20-A B-2, Rimas St , West Phase - 1 / L A - 75	308,000
27 L-20-B B-2, Rimas St /LA-105	435,000
28. L-28-A B-2, Rimas St / LA-79	324,000
29 L-28-B B-2, Rimas St / LA-80	328,000
30 L-30-A B-2, Rimas cor Avocado Sts , West Ph -1 /LA-90	369,000
31. L-30-B B-2 Avocado St , West Phase – 1 / L A - 74	303,000
32 L-3-B B-10, Pina St , West Phase – 1 / L A - 85	348,000
33 L-3 B-2, Chico St , West Phase – 2 / L A - 163	750,000
34 L-4 B-2, Chico St , West Phase – 2 / L A - 75	308,000
35. L-11-A B-22, Dayap St , West Phase – 2 / L A - 80	328,000
36 L-11-B B-22, Dayap St , West Phase – 2 / L A - 120	492 000
CAVITE	**MIN BID**
37 T'hse /L-2 Blk-23, Alicante St Town & Country West, Molino Bacoor LA-56 / FA-56 70	726,000
38 L-16 B 1, Ph -1, Mla South Woods Res'l Estate, Baybay, Carmona / LA-1,224	4,604,000
39 1 Sty H&L / L-10 B-60, Alley - 26, City Homes Phase – 4, Sampaloc, Burol LA-38/FA-30	207,000
40 H&L / L-13 Blk -43, City Hms Resortville, Brgy Lancaan, Dasmarinas LA- 35 / FA- 25	193,000
MAKATI (Kingswood Condo.)	**MIN BID**
41 Penthse/Unit P2F, Twr-B 26" & 29" flr V Cruz Ext'n / FA-154	7,207,200
42 Penthse/Unit P3F, Twr-B, 26" & 27" flr V Cruz Ext'n / FA-154	7,207,200
VALENZUELA	**MIN BID**
43 2 Sty Res'l T Hse / Unit-22 Sunriser Comp'd, Chico St , Gen T Deleon LA-42 7/FA-51	356,000
44 Lot/L-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd,Bonifacio St ,Canumay – East / LA - 1,114	2,241,000
45 2 Sty,Bldg/L-23-A-4, N Urulia St Palasan LA-670 / FA-694	2,345,000

RESIDENTIAL

VALENZUELA	MIN BID
46 Lot-8-C-2-B Santolan corner Tolentino Sts. LA-353 / FA-432	2,851 000
MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN	**MIN BID**
47 2 Sty Res'l T'hse/ # 13-B Teodora Vil Pandayan (via St Francis Subd) LA-32 / FA-51	480,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
48 Agro - Ind'l Lot / Lot 3871-D S Maragul Tibag / LA-10,001	3,812,000
ANGONO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
49 Lot / L-6 Blk-2 Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Estates, Ph-3 Mission Hills, Mabatang Parang (via Antipolo) / LA-540	1,677,000
MUNTINLUPA –Victoria Homes	**MIN BID**
50 L-123 B-3-A Almond St/LA-403	806,000
51 L-125 B-3-A Almond St/LA-436	872,000
52 L-127 B-3-A Almond St/LA-459	918,000
53 L-19 B-3-I Jasmine St /LA-713	1,426,000
CABANATUAN CITY, N.ECIJA	**MIN BID**
(# 529 Purok Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili)	
54 2 Storey resl / Lot 2-G LA-2 384/NLA-1,861 9/FA-138	3,218,000
55 Lot2-F/LA-2,250/NLA-2,008 88	2,683,000
56 Lot2-E/LA-2,249/NLA-2,007 48	2,683,000
57. Lot2-D/LA-2,250/NLA-2,006 08	1,503,000
58. Lot2-C/LA-2,616/NLA-2,345 81	1,747,000
59 Lot2-B/LA-2,619/NLA-2,338 66	1,031,000
60 Lot2-A/LA-2,822/NLA-2,535 36	1,111,000
61 Lot 3-A-6/LA-2,071/NLA-1,820 62	321,000
62 Lot 3-A-5/LA-2,071/NLA-1,847 61	321,000
63 Lot 3-A-4/LA-2,071/NLA-1,847 88	321,000
64 Lot 3-A-3/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848 17	321,000
65 Lot 3-A-2/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848 36	321,000
66 Lot 3-A-1/LA-2,071/NLA-1,839 88	321,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club, Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
67 L - 52 Blk – 17 / L A – 1,130	4,294 000
68 L - 31 Blk – 30 / L A – 858	3,261,000
69 L - 33 Blk – 30 / L A – 715	2 717 000
NON – FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
70 L - 14 Blk - 16 / L A - 828	2 484 000
71 L – 35 Blk - 37 / L A - 687	2.061.000
72 L – 03 Blk - 43 / L A - 855	2,565 000
STA. MARIA, BULACAN – SUNRAYS VILL.	
73 Lot / L – 38 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
74 Lot / L – 39 Blk- 5 / L A - 108	162,000
75. Lot / L – 40 Blk -5 / L A - 116	174,000
76 Lot / L – 41 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
77 Lot / L – 42 Blk. - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
78 Lot / L – 43 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
79 Lot / L – 46 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
80 Lot / L – 47 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
81 Lot / L – 50 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
82 Lot / L – 55 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
83 Lot / L – 58 Blk - 5 / L A - 48	72,000
84 Lot / L – 59 Blk - 5 / L A - 67	100,500
85 Lot / L – 62 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
86 Lot / L – 63 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
87. Lot / L – 64 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
88 Lot / L – 65 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
89. Lot / L – 66 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
90 Lot / L – 67 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
91 3 Sty Bldg /# 500 Quirino Hi-way, Brgy Bagbag, Novaliches LA-180 / FA-488	6,950,000
92 Whse /# 185 Roosevelt Ave S F D M / T L A - 5,641	140 000,000
MANILA	**MIN BID**
93 5 Sty Bldg/# 1933 Rizal Ave Sta Cruz LA-381 / FA-1,350	21,066 000
94 3 Sty Bldg / Anacleto St (back of # 1933 Rizal Ave) L A – 294 / F A - 810	16,469,000
95 2/F KP Twr , CM Recto Ave Cor Juan Luna St / FA-658	23,500,000
96 Dormitory-3 Sty / # 352 M F Jhocson St , Sampaloc L A - 489 3 / T F A - 1,620 5	15,750,000
PASIG, ORTIGAS CENTER	**MIN BID**
97 Offc Unit/ Unit # 2004, OMM Citra Bldg, San Miguel Ave (w/ parking) / FA-153 64	5,800,000
MAKATI	**MIN BID**
98 Lot /Lot-1-B & Lot-2-B Buendia cor Marconi St / TLA-472	16 200 000
99 Lot/# 3904 Quingua St, Brgy Pinagkaisahan / LA-612	13,770,000
100 Condo/ 5/F Millenium Plaza Eduque St / F A - 261 24	12 436 000
CABANATUAN CITY, N.ECIJA	**MIN BID**
(# 529 Purok Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili)	
101 Comml lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2-H / LA-2,810 NLA-2,260 67 / FA – 580	4,078,000
102 Agri lot /Lot 3-B/ NLA-37 041	1,893,000
SARIAYA, QUEZON PROVINCE	**MIN BID**
103 Agri lot w/ resl H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I, Psd 4A-001202 Sampaloc TLA -101,036 65 / TFA -9,277	45,100 000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
104 Lot/L-4-A, Panganiban cor Rizal Sts, / L A - 1,120	10,748,000
105 Lot/L-4-B, Panganiban cor. Rizal Sts / L A - 1,102	10,577,000
106 Lot/L-4-C Rizal St /L A -759	7 284 000
TAGUIG	**MIN BID**
107 Indl lot/L-2-B-1-A-1 Perfecto Drive Bagumbayan/ LA-2 920	9,200,000

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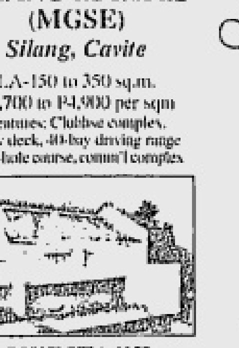

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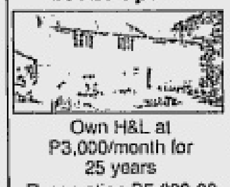

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nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

RUSH! CONDO 2br 3tb 1pkg ALONG EDSA 0918-5179690

RUSH SALE 3BR 2TB twnhse type w/garage P2.750M neg 0917-4143703 private subd.

PARANAQUE

Nr NAIA BNEW TWNHOUSE 3BR 2TB 87m² P2.6M(neg) 8268993/8251751/8512106

PASIG

Condo Malayan Plaza ADB Ave. Bside Discovery 0917-5218338

VVerde 2 60m² P2M 912-2304

VVERDE 3BR 1.7M T9124323

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Malayan Plaza
Stud1-2-3BR frnt ADB Podium
30%DP Bal Inhse/bank
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

RUSH ! VV1-3.7M
112m² 2BR 4attic rdy 4 occ terms ok 9135373 - 4383059

QUEZON CITY

2BR CUBAO P1M 9120679

CUBAO 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

*CUBAO CONDO
No D/P Pagibig 09178102903

QC Thse 3BR 115m² 9122304

SAN JUAN

ANNAPOLIS WILSHIRE
1BR 1car garage 890-2644
890-2487 Noel Manalo

One Beverly Annapolis St. 3BR 3TB pkng 0917-2482824

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Per Unit 2 Storey Apartment Newly Renovate all concrete 2BR w/ toilet, carport P1.3M-P1.4M Tandang Sora QC T9306106

BULACAN

3Door Apt. 280m Malolos Tivoli Royale 22T per square Meycauayan along MET CR

LOT

KALOOCAN

Indl Lots
@720m² 0917-8996754

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,000
639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MAKATI

•PINAGKAISAHAN•
110m²@P15Tnego 4543135

MUNTINLUPA

Portofino 5yrs2pay 8472626

PASIG

URGENT SALE R.Thaddeus St Romeo Marietta Vill 261m² neg Cristy 09167864705

QUEZON CITY

CARMEL 5. Res'l Lot
436m²@P7,500 454-3135

CORINTHIAN 600m² 7702222

E.Rod nr Batele 500m² 7217222

Filinvest 2 667m² P4.5 240-4309

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choice lots w/ view
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Ayala Hillside
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Beachfront:Matuod, Batangas 1.3has. 8943823 Tang/Madel

BATANGAS

5 - Hect Lot - Sto. Tomas Batangas. Ask P250/sqm Tel. 8105223 / 09272617308

CAVITE

Pallas Athena Executive Village 247sq/mT 639-2817

LAGUNA

•CABUYAO•
Laguna Multi-Land III 100sqm lots @P3000/sqm GSIS/Pag-Ibig financing hse & lot package call Tess 816-0997 or 0917-9166285

Calamba Hills Village nr. CPIP Rd. Industrial Park L20&22 Blk 11, LA320 at P2,600/sq. mtr. Call at (02)374-6760 /(0918)224-7120

Sacrifice Sale Laguna Bel Air 1 155m² 5,800/m² Neg. 7880905 nr Brent

SOUTH POINT 4T/m² 9122304

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Rush Piggery w/ECC 9522109

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

MANGO ORCHARD 850trees 9ha 10yrs Irrigated Fenced 10km fr CDO Airport Access 5.3K/tree 0918-2534858 BOY

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 1501m² P1M BENG 9314466 /9124573

• RAWLANDS •
Located In Sto.Nino, Lipa City Approx. 75 Ha. Property w/ Fruit Bearing Trees. Ideal for Cattle Raising or Subd. for Small Family Farming Price: P200/m² For Details Call Sales Tel. 81-0097

Sacramento Farm LOT Rush Sale 6280146 • 6404312

ZAMBALES, Fishpond 8ha.+ P10M Devlpd 0920-9112910

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Fairways & Bwater Boracay C-1share 8251751/09179115357

RIZAL

24has. adj spring/Pililla River, Ideal for farm lot/ subd./orchard/poultry/ piggery P160/m² nego 911-5631 • 911-0735

Sampaloc Tanay 8h spr H2O fruit trees 5501588 / 9115178

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4361389

CONDO/TWNHSE

MUNTINLUPA

3BR MATCOR 09192064003

PASIG

Mega Plaza 1BR FF 631-0541

Ortigas Ctr. Newly Rnvtd S-Furn w/Appl 2BR 2TB MdOtr w/TB 1P.Slot T 722-9294/0353 0916-7990500 by Appointment

Res/Condo 14T 823-6945 FF

QUEZON CITY

3BR Valencia corner Castilla St T7267909 09175325838 Rowena

SAN JUAN

★GoldLand Tower 3BR P20T 747-7255, 0918-5106143

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1BR KTB 2ladys 5Th 8991321

MANILA

3BR, 1TB w/ tel. line near St. Scho and CSB Call 5310637

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124428

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w/bus space 7.5T 3730584

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W/AIRCON, TB MKT 8992148

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

G/F Sunshine Condo #9633 Kamagong St San Antonio Vill Makati 920-7793 / 0919-4470602

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Plamo 85.129r148/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 olc hrs

Tlange Stalls 4 Rent #59 West Ave. Q.C. 6T/mo. • 4-12MN

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

Real Estate Loan Metro Manila Gene 8504900

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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120sqm P40T/mo 3rd Flr. 1375 Gen. Luna Ermita 850-9893/809-0715

IBM PLAZA EASTWOOD LIBIS QC 0917-8133010

Makati Legaspi Village FCC Bldg.119 Rada 1/F Two(2) Units 35/45 sqm. P250/sqm./monthly+VAT+Asso.Dues Tels.818-2781/751-5472

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

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BEST COMMERCIAL SPACE IN MAKATI FOR RENT OR SALE 367sqm in Sage House Ground Flr Herrera St at PHP350 per sqm Call Beth at 2436856-7

HOUSE & LOT

Capitol Hills Golf Ayala Hts. Tel. 9325714 / 4754152

LOT FOR SALE/RENT

For Sale or Rent LA117sq.mtr at LANDCO BUSINESS PARK PACIFIC MALL infront of Gaisano Dept store in Pacific Mall, Legaspi City at P36,000/sq mtr or P50,000/month call (02)374-6769 or (0918)224-7120

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

BSA SUITES 1BR nr Ginbelt P25T/mo. neg 0917-8943697

•PACIFIC FORT
•120T including dues with curtains & lights, negotiable •11M DP bal 12 mos. 0% 0917-8431012 Hayley

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Looking for 1000has. Dinalupihan 0920-9112910

Looking for Farm in Tanay Rizal, 4has. 0920-9112910

REAL ESTATE SEMINARS BUYERS*SELLERS*BROKERS Sat. 8AM-5PM TTh 2pm-6pm Nov 25 - 29 ; Dec 2 - Dec 20 DTI-BTRCP CEP Credits Tel 9125847 * 09178991581

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'99 Civic A/T LXi Rush 8950971

HONDA ACCORD 1994 Good condition low mileage P280T 17 Jacaranda N Forbes Park Mkt Res.-8108280; Ofc-8185614

MAZDA

Miata '94 silver 480T Neg 941-2546 • 0918-5394114

MERCEDES

83 Benz 200G 150T Neg Tony 7215111 • 0917-9108361

M8ENZ 260E 1989 truly 47,000 mileage P495T A-1 condition 17 Jacaranda N Forbes Park Mkt Res.-8108280; Ofc-8185614

MITSUBISHI

'96 Galant SS 1st owned low mileage comprehensive insurance P260T 9157216

NISSAN

98 N. Safari Fully-loaded 2 A/C Nothing to Fix 780T (Neg.) T-(0918) 905-4615

TOYOTA

95CrlaXE FreshUSver 220T7767507

RAV 4 96 CBU Red 3dr A/T Loaded 111 Plate 430T Neg 0919-3434034 • 433-0315 Yen

Rush '98 RAV 4 Manual 480T Neg. Black 0918-2729920

TOYOTA SURF 0917-9361201

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Delica Hi-Town Ace Spacegear Serena Trooper Elf Canter etc A1 w/warranty finance T-in ok 9120647 Beryl

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3733901 loc. 8220/8302/8303

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1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

ABC*LUXURY CARS/VANS Expedition CRV Pajero Mbenz Starex Crosswind Grandia Accord Cefiro Altis-G Lynx VTEC T536-8822;303-9789;4262278

A*TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

CARS/ VANS/ BUS/ 8969956

CARS, VAN T9273453

L300 VAN 4711695 09163443087

L300 ADV. 741-1356

REVO w/driver 9272821

Van 0917-8143792 • 6421840

Vans For Rent 941-2546

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Closed Van 4whlr 936-7093

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

KENWOOD STEREO 7217222

ARTWORK

Joya Acrylic Abstract 1985 90cm X 150cm 628-0170

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 71377284

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Generator 48kva 7217222

HEALTH & BEAUTY

BTY Salon Equip w/2 Steamer 40T Neg 8870148/4586820

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Golden Ret 18T 7210640

LHASA APSO PUPS/STUD T8432786/09179930173

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BRAND NEW CARS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED
Fast Processing and Check release.
For more details
Pls. call at Tel. Nos.
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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PCCI
19th FCI & 311TH PCCI ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2003
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
J RUEDA
(Uruguay)
H PIZZORNO
(Uruguay)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
As per AO # 32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a Veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR
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LonghairedGuineaPig5277616 Less50% on boar 20% on sow

YORKSHIRE TERRIER P25T. FEM. P20T. MALE 2MOS W/SHOTS, STEELBLUE GOLD, TINYSHOWTYPE 2472570 / 2438977

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2color 20x29 450T neg 6568433

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MISCELLANEOUS

Rush 4 sale PHOTODEV SHOP Cong Ave Q.C. (0917)8427128

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Stable Company needs two(2) experienced salesman, male, 30 to 50 years old, speak fluent English, good sales presentation skills. We provide leads, salary & commissions. Fax resume to 892-9069

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Cook 6, Yaya 4, H.Girl 3, M'wife 7, Nurse 9, Foreign 8510250

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MALE/FEMALE

AREA MNGRS & MNGT STAFF 6332962/09274298604 IAN

DepEd MARIKINA CITY Vacant Pos Teacher I Item No. OSEC-DECSB-Tch1-51060-1996 SG 10 QS BSE PBET/LET Passer Place of assign Marikina High School ; Disbursing Officer II Item No. OSEC-DECSB-DO2-0008-2002 SG 8 QS 2years completion College 1year rel. experience 4hours rel. training CSSub Prof place of assign Parang High School

• DIR. HIRE • OFC MKTG STAFF 20-48YO COL. GRD/LVL W/ OR W/O EXP W/ SALRY MAYSEL 9352962•

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JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

Ofc Mktg Staff
0918-3219082 Rich

OFC MKTNG STF 09208062187

Part-Time Teacher-Aide/ Checker Pref. College Level Call Glo 722-7701

SALES REPRESENTATIVE Metro Manila 20-30yrs old P13,500 fax resume 7166929

Shawarma Cook w/experience 824-7556 0916-4428812

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• Urgent Ofc Staff Coll Grad Tonette 633-2962

WANTED: Accountant Computer Literate FINE FANCY Bldg B Basement SM Megamall

Wld Masseuse 09197247287 MF

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Golden Jubilarians Class '53 UST Pharmacy Reunion at Club Filipino Greenhills on Nov. 29 2003. 9am Sat. Call Lydia A. Reyes 4154315/66 ; 7214457 ; 09195156519

PERSONAL

Thank you Blessed Mother and to the Holy Spirit

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BSalon Rgths 250T neg 50m² Kamuning Rd Rose 4157298

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Sacri-Sale BAR n GRILL-KTV Ed -9329277 / 09274421961

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WHOLESALE NATURAL SPRING WATER P24.00 for 5 Gallons Pick Up At Plant Site in Pila, Laguna Text/Call 0920-2154126 For More Info. Waterola, Inc

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MUST B EMPLYD 9842865

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Tagaytay-Sta. Rosa National Road, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS — dti TRADE & INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of EUROCAP INCORPORATED with office address at Sapang Biabas, Mabalacat, Pampanga for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Metal Pipes and Tubes** at a capacity of **18,252 MT** per year with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on November 5, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 5th day of November 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Nov. 23, 2003)

RUSH SALE
USED GYM EQUIPMENT
TOP KNOWN BRANDS
"AS IS WHERE IS"
CONTACT: RORY OR BILLIE
TEL. NO. 818-8232 OR 818-8291

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Provincial General Services Office
Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all licensed security agencies and suppliers of hospital and laboratory equipment to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the following requirements, viz:

1. **CY 2004 SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT:**
   Twenty-Seven (27) guards to be assigned to the different provincial offices and facilities.
2. **FOUR (4) UNITS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:**
   a.) One (1) Unit Fully-Automated Hematology Analyzer
   b.) One (1) Unit Anesthesia Machine
   c.) One (1) Unit Class Safety Cabinet FS Stand for Seated Position
   d.) One (1) Unit Pulse Oximeter

All bidders must be pre-qualified and accredited not later than December 1, 2003. The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Committee on Awards Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office).

Sealed bids for the various **Hospital and Laboratory Equipment** requirements will be accepted on or before **December 3, 2003** not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

For the **Security Services** requirement, sealed bids will be accepted on or before **December 5, 2003** also not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at Provincial General Services Office at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

The Pre-Bid Conference for **Hospital and Laboratory Equipment** requirements is scheduled on December 1, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Provincial General Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, while the Pre-Bid Conference for the Security Services requirement is scheduled at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same date and venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ**
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI–November 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC.
Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal
PGH Compound, Taft Avenue, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. (FECFI), a non government/non profit organization invites all interested qualified

INDEPENDENT BUILDING ENGINEERING & CONSULTING FIRMS

to bid for comprehensive, coordinated and complete services on 1) Structural 2) Mechanical 3) Electrical 4) Sanitary by providing professional and technical advice/opinion to the Owner during the construction phase of the *Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal*.

Consulting Firms should be duly organized in the Philippines, incorporated with the SEC or DTI for a minimum of five (5) years, and should not be related in any way to any trustee, consultants or employee of the foundation. These shall be considered ground for disqualification.

Interested Consulting Firms who wish to bid for the project may submit a Letter of Intent and secure Bidding documents to the Project Management Unit, Nurses' Home, PGH Compound, Taft Ave., Manila from 24 to 27 November 2003, 5 o'clock PM. Deadline of submission is on 12 December 2003, 1700 HR. For clarification, you may contact the PMU at Tel. No. 400-01-20.

Proposals will be evaluated using the two-stage procedure: Price Component will only be opened if Technical Proposal meets the requirements for the assignment.

The FECFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect herein and to accept the offer as may be considered most advantageous to the Foundation. The FECFI will not answer any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective proposals, nor will the FECFI guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MARITA V.T. REYES, MD
President, FECFI

(PDI–November 23, 2003)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
SD-PRDD

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Logistics Center will conduct a Pre-Auction/Pre-Qualification conference for the sale through public auction of one (1) lot assorted salvage/junk vehicles and assorted scraps and residues of QM, Ordnance, Engineer, Signal, Medical & Dental items located at MSU Cebu AFPLC, Cebu City under AFPLC ITB No 2003-002 on "As-Is, Where Is" basis on 28 November 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Military Supply Unit Cebu, Arellano Boulevard, Cebu City.

Interested buyers may secure their Bid Forms at the Office of MSU Cebu, Cebu City. Point of Contact: LTC ROMEO A DIGNOS (QMS) PA at 413 2618 (Globe) or in Manila PRDD, Supply Depot, AFPLC. Point of Contact LTC JOEL I ENRILE (QMS) PA, Commanding Officer, Supply Depot, AFPLC at PLDT Tel. Number 911-6761 and 911-6001 loc 4433 and 4455 (PRDD)

(Sgd.) ALFREDO M ANDRES
LTC (GSC) PA
Chairman, AFPLC
Disposal Committee

(PDI - Nov. 22, 23 & 24, 2003)

SGTC IMMIGRATION CONSULTING
2nd Level Harrison Plaza Complex
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Promo – Free CGFNS coaching and self-evaluation for the first 25 persons.

KEPCO Ilijan Corporation
Ilijan Combined Cycle Power Plant

MANILA OFFICE
18th Floor, Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. : (632) 848-0231 to 39
Fax. : (632) 848-0014

ILIJAN SITE
1200MW Ilijan Power Plant
Brgy. Ilijan, Batangas City
Tel. : (043) 300-1111
Fax. : (043) 300-6705

INVITATION TO BID

KEPCO Ilijan Corporation (KEILCO), through the KEILCO Procurement Department (KEILCO-PD), invites all interested parties to participate in the one (1) lot bidding of the following on an "as is, where is basis":

Item No.	Desciption	QTY	U/M
1	600V Power and Control Cable 02 Cond 14 AWG D51-22	1,450	Ft.
2	600V, 2/C #14 AWG (2.5 MMSQ)	88,616	Ft.
3	300V 4 RTD #16 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Shield Triad	1,222	Ft.
4	600V, 4/C #10 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Shield Triad	10,538	Ft.
5	300V 1PR #16 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Thermocouple Extension Cable Type Ex	42,893	Ft.
6	300V 1PR #16 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Twisted Shield Pair	171,236	Ft.
7	5KV DHI Vulpren EPR 1x300 cu2 2.3mm	3,371	Ft.
8	500 1/C EP/HYP 600V DURA	1,575	Ft.
9	300V, 4PR #16 AWG (1.5mmsq), Thermocouple Extension Cable Type EX	5,110	Ft.
11	600V Control Cable #14 AWG 2C	10,662	Ft.
12	300V, Instrument Cable IPS 16 AWG 2C	7,820	Ft.
13	5kv, 1C-750kcmil (400 mmsq), 100% Insulation Shielded Flame Retardant Power Cable	9,570	Ft.
14	XL40, 16 AWG	350	Ft.
15	XLPE Instrument Cable 2 PR, 16 AWG 600V Type TC Decoron	400	Ft.
16	600V, 3/C #2/0 AWG (70 mmsq) w/ ground	500	Ft.
17	Low Voltage Power / Control / Instrument Cable	9,400	Ft.
18	Low Voltage Power / Control / Instrument Cable D26-06 1/C 350 kcmil	3,300	Ft.
19	600V, 19/C #14 AWG (2.5 mmsq)	3,000	Ft.
20	1/C-500 kcmil Cable	2,800	Ft.
21	3C #2/0 AWG with Ground	900	Ft.
22	600V, 3/C #2 AWG (35 mmsq) with ground	1,500	Ft.
23	5kV DHI Vulpren EPR 1x400mm2	430	Ft.
24	Durasheat EP 500 AWG MCM 1/C 600V	500	Ft.
25	XLPE Control Cable, 19Cx14 AWG Type TC, 600V	750	Ft.
26	XLPE Instrument Cable, 6PRx16 AWG Type TC, 600V	1,050	Ft.
27	350 KCM 600V	1,000	Ft.
28	.75 MM Sized Cables	5,500	Ft.
29	Matro Cable	470	Ft.

Interested parties may submit their bid no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 15, 2003 and address the same to the attention of:

The Manager
Procurement Department
KEPCO Ilijan Corporation
18th Floor, Citibank Tower
8741, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

The Instruction to Bidders (ITB) are available for distribution starting November 24, 2003 during business hours and may be availed of at KEILCO's Manila Office by submitting your Letters of Intent and a refundable Bid Bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check amounting to Php 16,000.00. The ITB may be obtained from Mr. Joong-Keun Oh, Procurement Manager, at KEILCO's Manila Office, extension 160.

All the items for bid may be inspected at KEILCO's Ilijan Site Office during business hours and may be coordinated with Mr. Bag-Woon Choi, Manager, Material Control Department, KEILCO Site Office, extension 131.

KEILCO's Procurement Department reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason; waive any defect or required formality therein; assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he/she/they may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation; and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to KEILCO.

For further inquiries, you may contact Mr. Rodrigo San Pedro Jr., Supervisor of Procurement Department at 02-848-0231 local 161.

(Sgd.) Jae-Pyo Choi
General Manager, Administration Group

(PDI–Nov. 23 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC.
Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal
PGH Compound, Taft Avenue, Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

The FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. (FECFI), a nongovernment/non profit organization invites all interested:

SPECIALTY CONSULTANTS OR SPECIALTY CONSULTANCY FIRMS ON FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

to be pre-qualified as Specialty Consultant for the analysis of the present design of the *Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal* in compliance with local and international fire and life safety codes pertaining hospital facilities.

Consulting Firms should be duly organized in the Philippines, incorporated with the SEC or DTI for a minimum of five (5) years, and have undertaken consulting of similar nature. The Consulting Firm should not be related in any way to any trustee, previous or past consultants, or employee of the foundation. These could be considered ground for disqualification.

Interested Consulting Firms who wish to pre-qualify for the project may submit a Letter of Intent and secure Pre-qualification Forms at the Project Management Unit (PMU), Nurses' Home, PGH Compound, Taft Ave., Manila from **24 to 27 November 2003, 12 noon. Deadline of submission** of the accomplished Pre-qualification forms in two (2) copies shall be **on or before 03 December 2003, 1700 HR.** For clarification, you may contact the PMU at Tel. No. 400-01-20.

All Pre-qualified consultants shall be properly notified.

The FECFI reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any formality or technicality and to award to any consultant whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the project. The FECFI will not answer any obligation for any lost whatsoever that may be incurred by the consultant in the preparation of the respective proposals, nor will the FECFI guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MARITA V.T. REYES, MD
President, FECFI

(PDI–November 23, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that

JOSE MA. (BONG) SARMIENTO PANLILIO,

whose photo appears above, is NOT in any way connected with FE S. PANLILIO JEWELLERS, with main office address at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines.

Jose Ma. S. (Bong) Panlilio DOES NOT represent Fe S. Panlilio Jewellers in any capacity and does not have an interest in or hold any position in the company.

(PDI – November 21 & 23, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements for CY 2004:

	SERVICE		APPROVED BUDGET
1.	Building Janitorial Services	–	P 4,214,000.00
2.	Pest Control	–	P 546,000.00
3.	Servicing of Air-conditioning units	–	P 913,000.00
4.	Local Newspapers	–	P 876,834.00
5.	Purified Water	–	P 516,900.00
6.	Rental of Copier Machines	–	P 1,910,000.00

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for eligibility on or before December 15, 2003 at 10:00 AM at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2003)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last 2 years
7. Certificate from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Labor Relations Council (NLRC) that no labor case has been filed against the bidder

Inquiries for the details and particulars on instructions to bidders, bid documents, and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, OSND. A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 27, 2003 at 2:00 PM, OASP Conference Room, 2nd floor, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on December 15, 2003 at 10:00 AM for items 1, 2 & 3 and at 2:00 PM those tenders for items 4, 5 & 6 will be on the same date at the OASP Conference Room, DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidders whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as Evaluated by the OSND Bids and Awards Committee (OSND BAC).

This invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org. The public is likewise informed that henceforth, invitations to bid for procurements costing P2M and below shall be posted in the websites of the DBM Procurement Service and of the AFP website, in accordance with the Implementing Rules & Regulations of R.A. 9184. Further, such bids shall also be posted at a conspicuous place in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOSE N. FERRER JR.
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – November 23, 2003)

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Low Starting Bid

Starting Bid PHP55,000,000
(ORIGINAL COST PHP290,000,000)

Bid Closing 6pm Tuesday 9th December 2003

For further particulars, viewing & bidding details please contact: Matt Freeston - Tel.: 63 2 852 2910

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E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS
Manlunas St. Villamor Air Base
Pasay City Tel: 513-08-47 to 50
Fax: 853-51-27

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine State College of Aeronautics, (PhilSCA) Villamor Air Base, Pasay City invites all bonafide bidders to apply for eligibility, to bid for the security services requirement of the College.
2. For information please contact office of the Bids and Award Committee on the above telephone number local 220/205.

The Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – November 23, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
Bids and Awards Committee
LEYTE DIVISION

Invitation for Bids

IFB No. LYT-053-007-0158

November 23, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereafter referred to us JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the ***Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans. (Nov. 1987) and IDA Credits.***

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of Leyte Division and its implementing partners, Department of Education (the Employer) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of One (1) Unit – Six (6) Classrooms Two Storey TEEP School Building at Sta. Fe Central School, Sta. Fe, Leyte. Interested local contractors should be accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accredition Board (PCAB) and must be at least "Medium sub-category A", Interested foreign contractors must submit evidence in the English Language, to show that they are duly established and reputable contractors in their home country.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd, Leyte Division, TEEP SBP Office with the address at Leyte Division Office Government Center Candahug, Palo, Leyte from November 23 to December 22, 2003 for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) for each set. A Pre-bid conference will be held at the same address on December 11, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education, Division Office of Leyte, Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte on or before 10:00 A.M. on December 22, 2003 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **AURORA AQUINO-VILLARENTE, CESO VI**
Chairperson
Division of Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 23, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. MERLE P. LASCANO** whose picture appears below is no longer connected with **RICHWELL TRADING CORPORATION** effective November 13, 2003.

MERLE P. LASCANO

Please be informed that all transactions entered into by **MERLE P. LASCANO** for and in behalf of RICHWELL TRADING CORPORATION is under review and evaluation by the company in the light of the criminal and civil charges to be filed against her.

(PDI – November 23, 2003)

SNF FLOERGER®

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INVITATION FOR DISTRIBUTORSHIP

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- **power plants**
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You can visit our website at www.snf.fr

(PDI – November 23, 2003)

PhilCharter

INVITATION TO BID
TOTAL LOSS VEHICLES
(AS IS, WHERE IS)

VEHICLE	FLR. PRICE
2001 TOYOTA REVO P	180,000.
1996 LANCER 4DS	75,000.
2002 ISUZU TROOPER	500,000.
1997 LITE ACE	50,000.
1997 HONDA CIVIC VTI	150,000.
1995 L300 ALUM VAN	55,000.
COMPANY CARS (AS IS, WHERE IS)	
1990 COROLLA XL	40,000.
2002 COROLLA ALTIS J.	520,000.
1997 L300 VERSA VAN	250,000.
1998 NISSAN PATHFINDER	120,000.

Please call
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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM

Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility for the bidding of:

ONE (1) LOT - SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF CENTRALIZED AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for prequalification of bidders:
   1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
   2. 2003 Business License/Permit
   3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "received" by the BIR
   4. Company Profile
   5. List of clients and references and supporting documents
   6. List of company equipment and other assets
   7. Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representative of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS
The above mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and properly tabbed. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

NOTE: "ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

C. Deadline for submission: November 25, 2003
D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.
E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University.
F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-5374 (direct line) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4911 and 4913.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(Sgd.) **AMELIA P. GUEVARA**
Officer-In-Charge
U.P. Diliman

(PDI - Nov. 16 & 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Bureau of International Health Cooperation
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

November 20, 2003

NOTICE

The Department of Health under the Early Childhood Development Project-Department of Health (ECDP-DOH) Component is in need of consultant (individual) to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Project's Food Fortification sub-component:

1. Business and Food and Nutrition Situation Analyst (1)

Interested individuals may get a copy of the Terms of Reference from the Department of Health-Early Childhood Development Project, Ground Floor, Bldg. 3, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Letters of interest with curriculum vitae and salary history must be submitted on or before **November 28, 2003** to the undersigned at the address below:

Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
G/F Building 3, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Should there be further inquiries, you may contact Ms. Cecilia C. Hernandez, Executive Assistant, Early Childhood Development Project at (02) 338-6516 and 743-8301 loc. 1343.

(Sgd.) **REMEDIOS VS. PAULINO**
Director IV

Inquirer–Nov.23, 2003

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT of AGRARIAN REFORM
DAR-Asian Development Bank
Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The DAR-ADB ARCP is a national level Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) Project addressing rural poverty implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform supported by a loan from the Asian Development Bank. The Central Project Management Office located at the Ground Floor FAPsO Building DAR Central Office is pleased to announce the need for:

Area Project Manager

The above position shall be based in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in Cotabato City. He will be responsible for the day to day operation of the ARCP in his/her defined area of operation and will have direct responsibility in the efficient and effective functioning of the Area Project Office (APO). With guidelines from the Project Management Board (PMB) as detailed by the Central Project Management Office (CPMO), he/she will ensure the successful implementation of the project following the provisions of the loan and project agreement in accordance with the Project Operations Manual. He/she will be accountable to the National Project Manager at the CPMO in the performance of the following terms of reference:

- With the assistance of his/her staff, adapt and implement the following systems according to the needs of the APO and its areas of operation: a) subproject approval system covering technical, financial, economic, social and environmental considerations; b) M & E system; c) administrative and financial system, including internal control; and d) NGO selection and deployment mechanism;
- Participate in planning and assessment exercises of the CPMO and lead in the particularization of such at the APO level;
- Promote and represent the Project in the APO's areas of operation;
- Lead in maintaining effective working relations with DAR and project partners such as LGUs and other related government agencies, NGOs, and POs in the APO's area of operation;
- Provide guidance and direction in the day to day activities of the APO units and staff;
- Ensure the preparation and submission to the CPMO of APO quarterly and annual plans and reports, highlighting the outstanding issues and concerns in his/her assigned areas making recommendations and defining resolutions as appropriate;
- Ensure the preparation and submission to the CPMO of updates, work plans and special reports as needed;
- Lead in deliberations of all project-related documents including subproject proposals, monitoring and evaluation in the APO's areas of operation;
- Lead in ensuring that funds which are made available for all project components have adequate amount and ascertain timely provision of such in the APO's areas of operation;
- Lead in ensuring that contracts or agreements related to the project in his/her area are drafted and executed in accordance with the terms of such contracts/agreements; and
- Perform other tasks as may be assigned by the National Project Manager.

Qualification standards:

- Minimum of 10 years relevant experience in the management and implementation of rural development projects;
- Well-versed in project planning, appraisal and evaluation;
- A mix of successful management experience in community and institutional development; rural infrastructure; and agricultural development is crucial;
- Bachelor's degree in management, economics, agriculture or rural development;
- Master's degree in related field will be an advantage.

Interested applicants may send their letter of intent by COB **December 5, 2003** with copy of a comprehensive curriculum vitae attached with a 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Asst. Secretary for Support Services/FAPsO Executive Director Head, National Screening and Selection Committee
Ground Floor, FAPsO Building, DAR Central Office
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Attention: **National Project Manager**
DAR-ADB ARCP

Note: Previous applicants need not apply.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. MAYLA C. GARCIA** whose picture appears below is no longer connected with **RICHWELL TRADING CORPORATION** effective September 27, 2003.

MAYLA C. GARCIA

Please be informed that all transactions entered into by **MAYLA C. GARCIA** for and in behalf of RICHWELL TRADING CORPORATION is under review and evaluation by the company in the light of the criminal and civil charges to be filed against her.

(PDI – November 23, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. BERLINDA CALLUENG**, whose picture appears above ceased to be connected with **UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION (COCOLIFE)**, effective **November 13, 2002**. Any transaction or representation made or which she may undertake in behalf of **COCOLIFE** is not valid and will not be honored by the company.

(PDI – November 23, 2003)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

The corporate term of Collective Communications, Inc. has been shortened to three years ending on November 27, 2003 through a resolution approved by majority of the members of its board of directors in a meeting duly called for the purpose and ratified by stockholders representing 2/3 of its outstanding capital stock. Wherefore, the corporation is deemed dissolve as of said date and business operations shall cease forthwith.

(Sgd.) **Christine Y. Salvacion**
Acting Corporate Secretary

(PDI-Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 2003)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for sale, as one whole block are the remaining 32,256,021 shares of stock held by the National Development Company (NDC) in **Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corporation (PASAR)** at a base price of **P32,256,021.00.**

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on **9 December 2003**, at 3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 6th Floor, PMO Building, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for **Guidelines on Offer for Sale (GOS)** and **Offer Form (OF)** from the PMO Marketing Department, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331/817-8762.

B10

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OBITUARIES

To our dearly Beloved Daddy,

Like the flowers leave their scent
And birds, the echo of their songs
So shall your memory linger in our hearts
Always and forevermore.

So deeply missed, so sadly remembered

Salvador "Bubby" Dacer

who, with **Emmanuel "Awel" Corbito** was abducted and disappeared on November 24, 2000.

His bereaved parents, **Celedonio** and **Emiliana**; children **Emily Hungerford**, **Sabina** and **Chelen Reyes**, **Carina**, **Ampy** and **Bobby Henson**; granddaughter, **Denise Gabrielle Reyes**; in-laws, relatives and friends request all readers committed to **TRUTH and JUSTICE** to pray to the Almighty God, Fountain of Wisdom and Mercy that **government finally act with firmness and determination to punish the guilty, whoever they are and wherever they maybe, to the fullest extent of the law.** Only then can **Bubby** and **Awel** rest in eternal peace and joy.

"With God Nothing Is Impossible"

Masses and intentions will be offered in the following Churches:

St. Cornelius Catholic Church, Long Beach, California
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Islamabad, Pakistan
Holy Rosary Parish Church, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City
Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati
St. Peter's Parish Church, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong City
St. Jude Church, Malacañang, Manila
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City
ABS-CBN Sunday TV Mass

You are all invited to a Holy Mass on Sunday, November 23, 9:30 A.M. at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City followed by a press conference at the Dacer residence on State Ave., Sun Valley Subdivision and to a "Forum on the Anti-Involuntary Disappearance Bill" on Monday, November 24, 10 A.M. at the Rembrandt Hotel, Quezon City.

DEATH NOTICES

JUAN "BOY" SOLIMAN, JR.

(August 8, 1943 - November 21, 2003)

His body lies in state at Grace Funeral Home, Retiro cor. Halcon Sts. La Loma, Q.C. and will be transferred to Sto. Rosario, Minalin Pampanga on Nov. 24, 2003.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 26, 2003 at Good Shepherd Memorial Park, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Dulce "Dulcing" Guzman Reyes

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 20, 2003 at the age of 95.

Her remains lie in state at the Garden Suite, Ground floor, Loyola Memorial Chapels Inc. Guadalupe, Makati City.
Interment will be on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

We, the family of the late

MANUEL VASQUEZ JAVATE

Cabanatuan City and Jaen, Nueva Ecija

"MANOLING"

February 11, 1936 - November 8, 2003

wish to express our sincerest gratitude and deep appreciation to all those who condoled with us, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, offered prayers and masses, kept vigil, and attended funeral rites and in countless humble other ways helped us in our hour of bereavement.

May God reward you for the joy, love and comfort you generously gave to us. Thank you very much.

ATTY. LORENZO G. PARUNGAO

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 21, 2003 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **CORA**; children **JOP & JAJA, KITTY & MICHAEL, ABET & MALOU, LODEL & GRACE, CECIL**; together with sisters **TRINING, LUDY & AURING**; grandchildren, **GIA, ANDREA, COURTNEY, KIMBERLY, LORDRICC & GABRIEL**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the LA FUNERARIA PAZ, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on THURSDAY, November 27, 2003 at the HIMLAYANG PILIPINO after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ABELARDO V. AGUSTINES

of Polo, Valenzuela City and Bocaue, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 20, 2003 at the age of 95.

His loving wife **Marcelina Ramirez** (†) and children **Stella** and **Val Lopez**, **Ada** and **Celing de Leon** (†), **Manuel** and **Carrie Zavalla**, **Josephine** (†), **Marlene** and **Ruperto Santiago** (†), **Ellen** and **Manny Reyes-Uy**, **Susan** and **Kleber Alvarado**, **Marabella** and **Jessie Salazar**, **Miriam** and **Nick Navarro**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 101 P. Burgos Street, Poblacion, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Garden of Peace Memorial Park, Bagumbayan, Bocaue, Bulacan after the Holy Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish Church in Bocaue, Bulacan.

NENITA T. HERRERA

Of Davao City and Kidapawan City

joined her Creator on Saturday, November 8, 2003 and was interred on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at the Davao Memorial Park, Davao City

Her sisters **Maria Araceli ("Nelly") Reyes** and **Ligaya Corazon ("Gaying") Zosa**, brother **Miguel T. Herrera Jr.** (†), brothers-in-law **Dominador O. Reyes** and **Julio M.D. Zosa** (†), sisters-in-law **Nydia Sindao**, her nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who condoled with them and especially to **Nena Ramos and family**, **the Development Bank of the Philippines** and other organizations in Kidapawan City and Davao City who made the arrangements for her interment.

From the family of

Dr. Rosario Nazareno Lopez

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice
Former Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Commission
Former Chairperson, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
October 21, 1935 to November 7, 2003

and

Rosie Nazareno Lopez

September 4, 1938 to November 6, 2003

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to those who have offered their sympathy and prayers during these trying times. We enjoin our friends and the pious readers to continue praying for the repose of their souls and to carry on with the acts of charity that marked our loved ones' lives.

The 40th day will be commemorated on December 16, 2003 with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Santuario de San Jose Parish in East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City at 6:15 p.m. and at the Immaculate Conception Shrine in Naic, Cavite at 6 A.M. This will be followed by a luncheon at the ancestral in Naic, Cavite.

Gining LYDIA MIRASOL ALANO VILLEGAS

Joined Our Heavenly Creator
and her "Mahay" - Gatpuno Ng Maynila,
Antonio J. Villegas -
at 4:00 AM on Saturday, November 22nd, 2003.

Her loving children **Maria Teresita, Antonio Jr., Maria Victoria, Maria Lydia Antonieta**, and their families wish to invite relatives and friends to view her body and celebrate Holy Mass daily at Funeraria Paz, Sucat inside Manila Memorial Park. They also request everyone to pray for her peaceful repose and everlasting happiness.

Interment will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Memory

of a devoted Husband, a loving Father and Grandfather and a dedicated Friend

ANTONIO NATIVIDAD BATU

on the 1st Anniversary of his rebirth to ETERNAL LIFE
(November 23, 2003)

Requiem mass will be offered on Nov. 25, 2003 at:

Redemptorist Church, *Davao City*	**2:00 PM**

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on Nov. 23, 2003:

St. James the Great Parish, *Ayala Alabang Village, Alabang*	**6:00 PM**
St. Jerome Emiliani Church, *Alabang Town Center, Alabang*	**6:00 PM**
Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth & the Life, *Pasay City*	**All Masses**
The Transfiguration of Christ Parish, *Dalig, Antipolo*	**5:00 PM**
Queen of Peace Church, *Bacolod City*	**5:15 PM**
Redemptorist Church, Bacolod City	**5:30 PM**
Redemptorist Church, *Davao City*	**6:00 PM**

WIFE: Tessie; CHILDREN Gretchen and John; Aileen and Mon, and Butch; GRANDCHILDREN Hanna and Bianca

Request readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory.

ALICIA ANTONIO REYES

of Biñan, Laguna & Quezon City
peacefully joined our Lord
on November 21, 2003 at the age of 64.

Her most loving husband **Edgardo**; daughters **Michelle, Grace, Jeanette Marie** and **Angelique Marie**; sons-in-law **Jasper Raymundo** and **Philip Roy Sanchez**; granddaughter **Louise Nicole**; brothers **Romeo & Danilo (†)**; **sisters Amelita & Felicitas**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and long-time friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premier Suite 1 of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapels., Inc.

PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS. MASS CARDS WILL BE MORE APPRECIATED.

FR. "BOBBY" BERNABE SISON

Feb. 21, 1940 – Nov. 20, 2003
Founder: The Good Samaritan
Spiritual Director of Prayer Groups: San Lorenzo Ruiz, Saint Martin Ministry, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Katbaloganon USA, Waray Association

His bereaved mother **Solidad**; brothers **Bernardo** and **Antonio**; sisters **Erlinda** & **Ludy**; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephew and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Viewing will be on Monday, Nov. 24, 2003 at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 25 Carmine St., New York City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2003 at Calvary Cemetery, Queens, New York City.

FILOMENA ARELLANO-LUARCA

of Santa Ana, Manila

Passed away in San Sebastian, Spain
on November 19, 2003 at the age of 83.

She is survived by her husband **Jose M. Luarca**; sister **Ma. Amor A. Castillo**; children and in-laws **Ma. Felisa** & **Virgilio Reyes Jr.**; **Ma. Emilia** & **Antonio Pajaro**; **Ma. Stella** & **Jose Maria Diez**; **Ma. Gracia** & **Fritz Kurleto**; **Ma. Carmen** & **Ramon Gasilao**; **Rafael** & **Marcelina Luarca**; and grandchildren **David, Cristina, Victor, Paul-Philippe, Noel, Vincent, Nomar, Shalom** and **Caleb**.

Donations in her memory may be given to the Hospicio de San Jose.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Caparas slams critics for helping 'kill' industry

By Nini Valera

DIRECTOR Carlo J. Caparas is accusing film critics as among the suspects in the slump in the local movie industry.

Caparas, whose latest movie, "Chavit," is based on the life of deposed President Estrada's nemesis, former Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Thursday that critics have stunted the growth of the industry because of their scathing criticisms of local movies.

"*Sa sobrang pintas nila*, turned off *na ang mga tao sa pelikula. Ayaw nang pumasok sa sinehan* (Because of their biting criticism, people are turned off and no longer want to watch the movie)," said Caparas. "The project is already mutilated after their reviews. *Sana*, constructive criticism, *huwag* assassination of the project."

He pointed out that some critics were not even qualified to review movies.

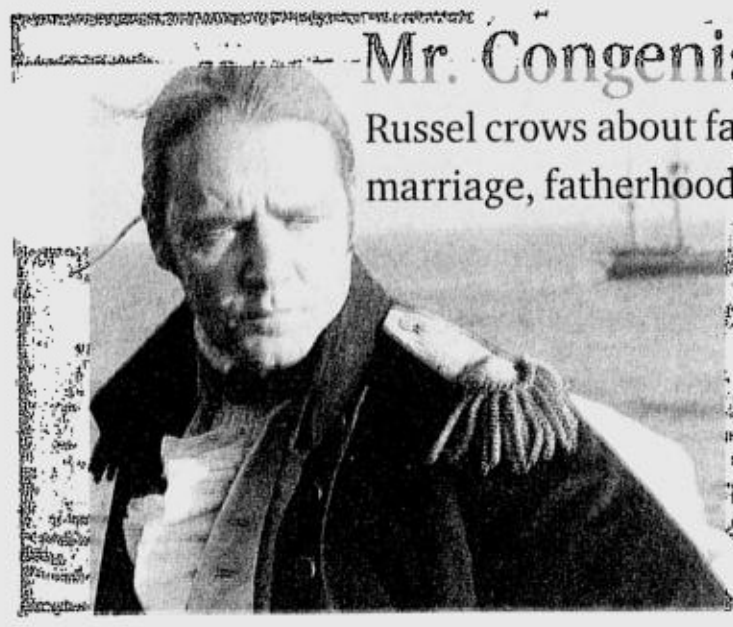
"Let's face it, the audience watches a movie only to be entertained," Caparas said in Filipino. "They are not film critics. If they read a bad review, they would be discouraged from

CAPARAS/ C2

Mr. Congeniality

/C4

Russel crows about fame, marriage, fatherhood in exclusive



'MASTER' CROWE in "Master and Commander"

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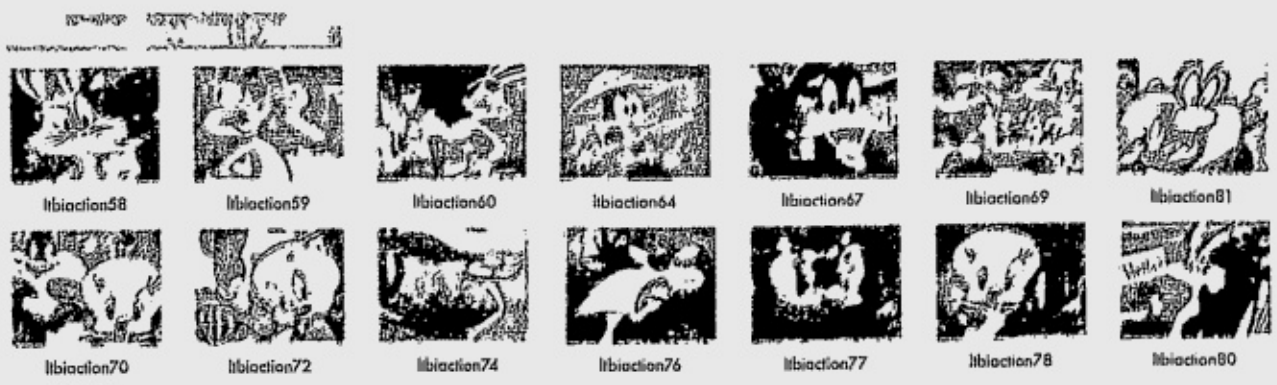

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Caparas slams critics for helping 'kill' industry

From page C1

watching the movie, especially those from the AB crowd."

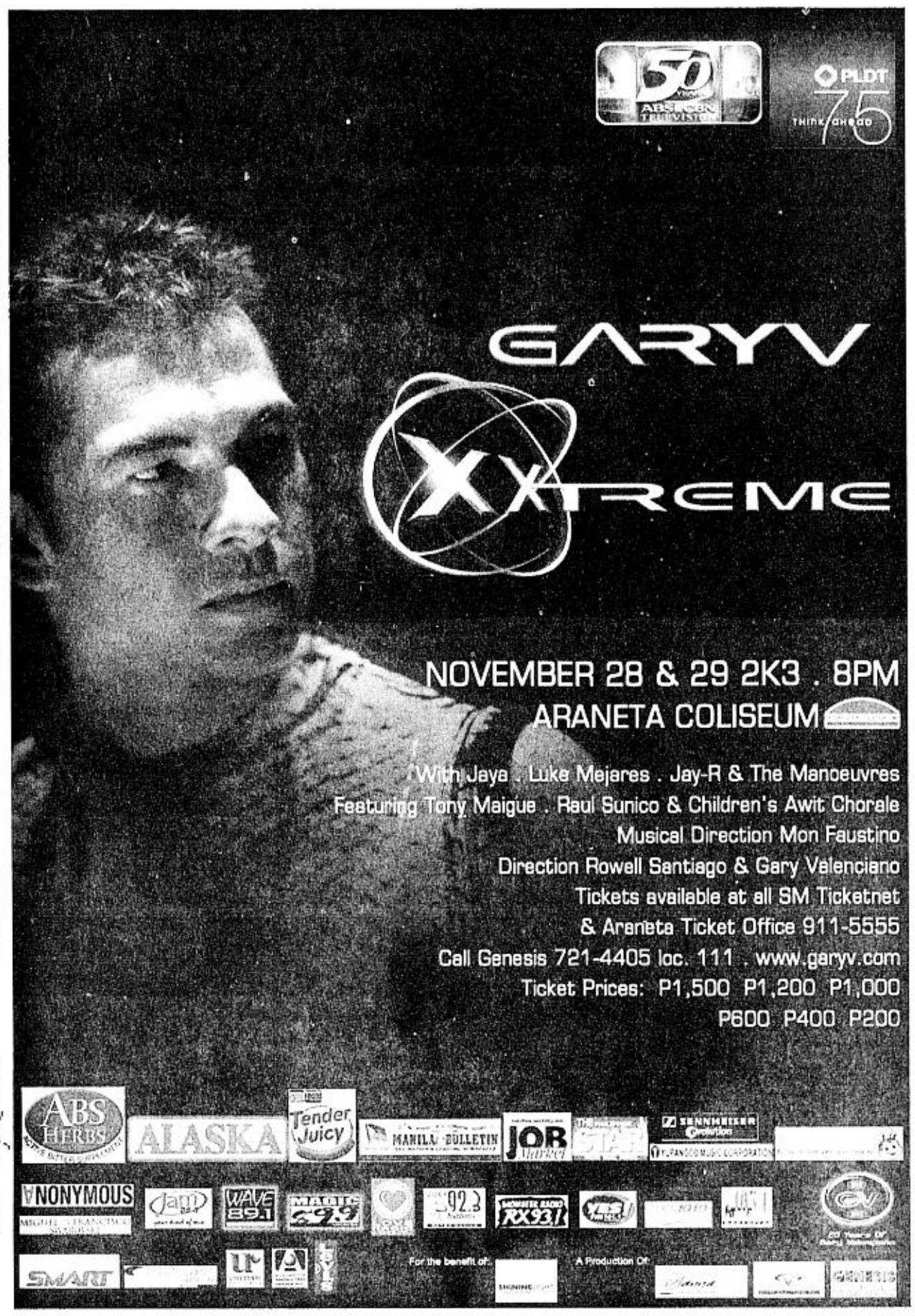
He is also appealing to the critics to come out with their reviews only after a movie has finished its run in theaters, or several days after a movie has opened. This way, the movie will have a chance at the tills, he said.

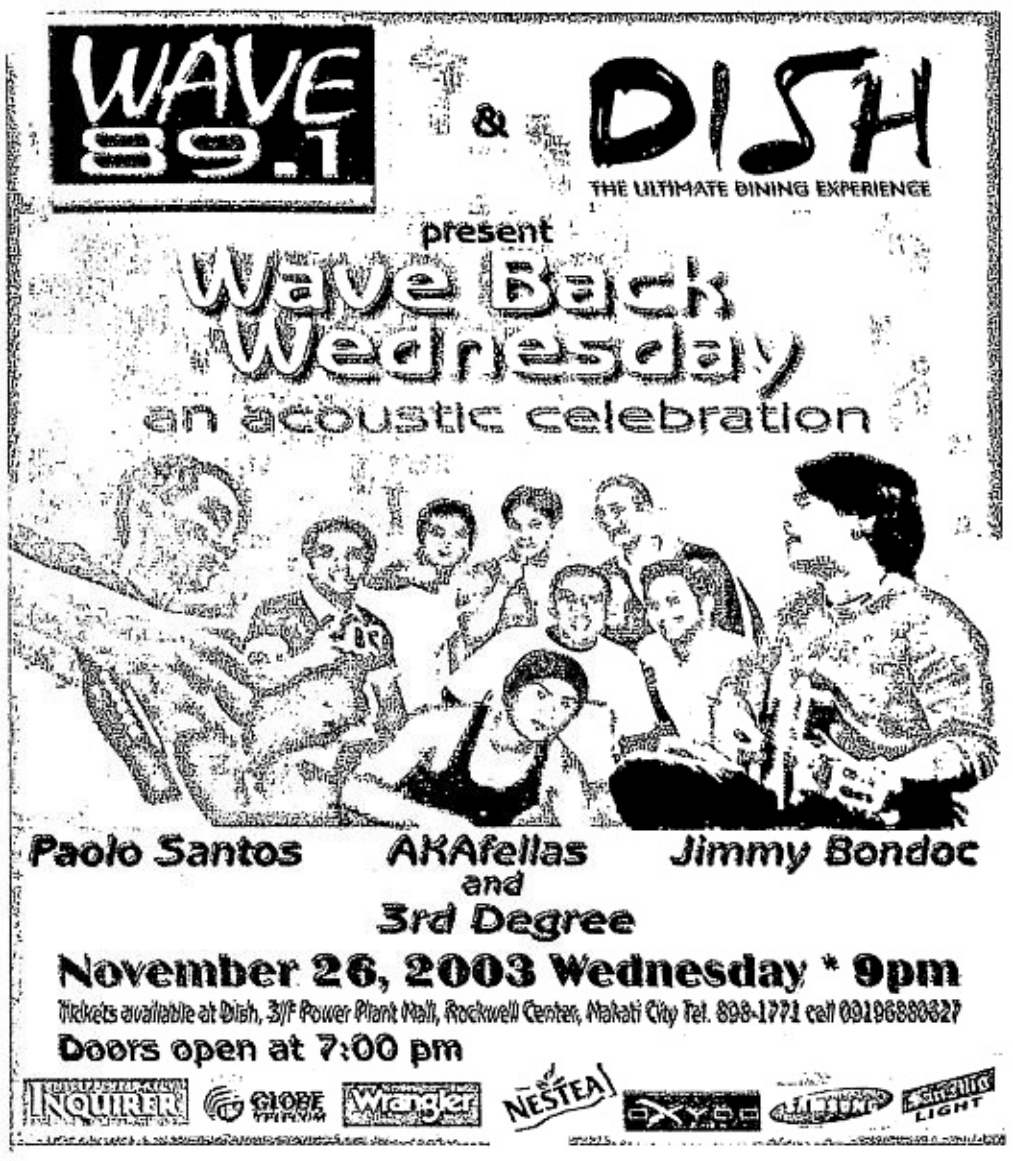
In these days when major producers spend only P6 million to produce a movie, the Singson bio-pic cost P80 million. Expenses have continued to pile up even after post-production, as the movie reaches its last leg of promotion before it opens in Metro Manila next Wednesday, according to Caparas.

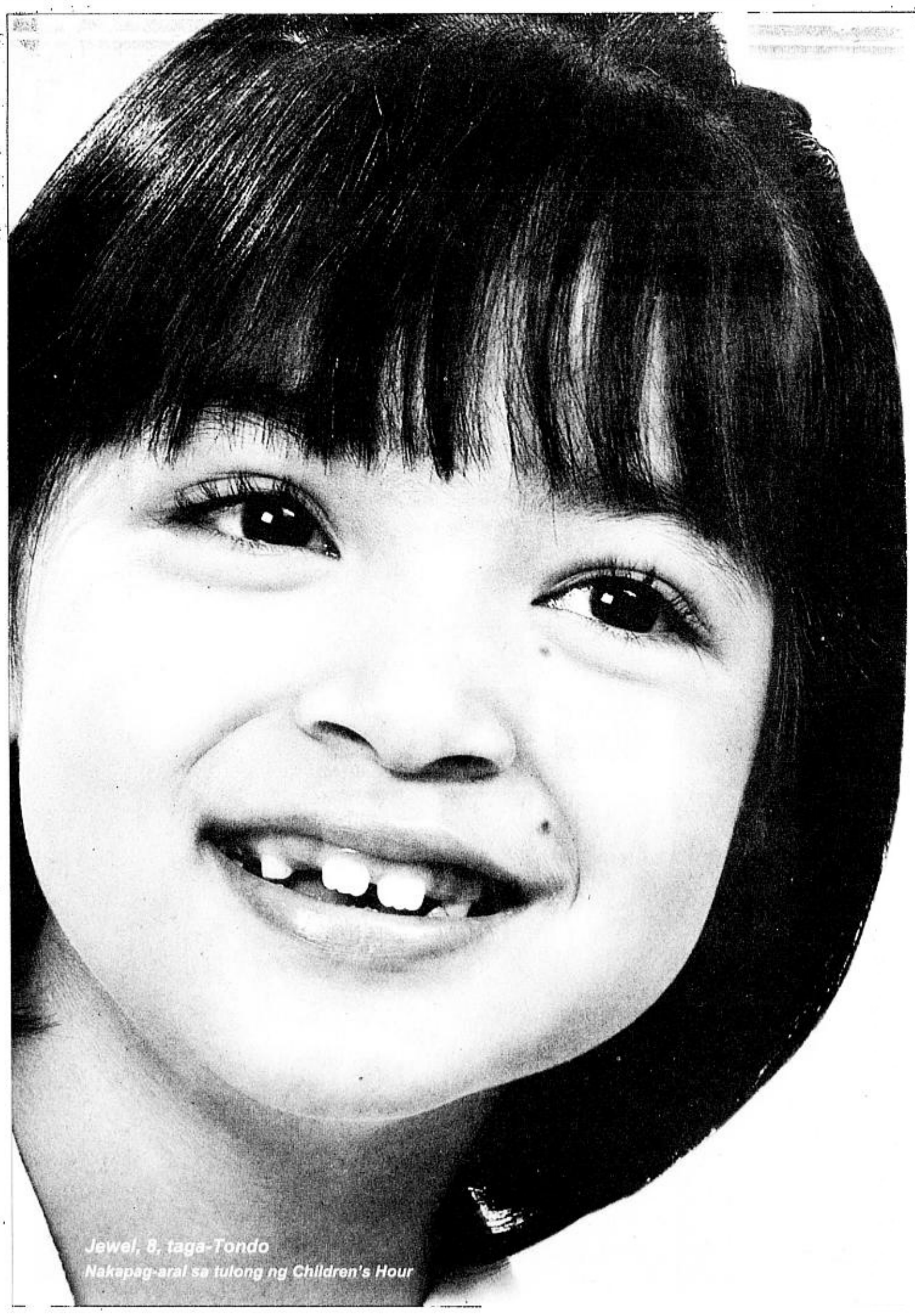
The movie was produced by Golden Lion Films and by Starmax International and Velcor Films. Golden Lion is owned by Caparas' wife, former movie star Donna Villa.

"I would like this movie to be a wake-up call for the other producers," said Caparas in Filipino. "I am giving them a reason (not to give up hope). They say the industry is clinically dead, and local movies are no longer making money because of piracy. But I don't believe in that. If we do something expensive

CAPARAS/ C7







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isang oras mong suweldo,
nabigyan ng pagkakataon ang isang
bata na makapag-aral at matuto.

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puwede mong mapangiti pa.

At kung ilang bata pa ang puwede
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Which stars make $25 M per film?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVERY year, some entertainers will pull up their performing roots here and head for Hollywood in a determined bid for fame and fortune. They hear of other Asians like **Jackie Chan** who now make millions of dollars per film, and they want to get their share of all those greenbacks!

Unfortunately, they have a hard time going beyond "extra" status, and soon have to resign themselves to working, not as actors, but as waitresses, bartenders or caregivers. After some years, they realize that they're on a dead-end street, and sheepishly come back home to try to revive their careers here again.

But we understand why Hollywood stardom is such a dazzling dream for them, particularly when we get the latest word on how much US film stars are paid these days:

The top fee for the most bankable superstars is $25 million. If you're a producer who wants to secure the services of **Tom Cruise, Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks, Will Smith, Mike Myers, Julia Roberts, Adam Sandler, Jim Carrey** and **Harrison Ford,** you'll have to cough up that huge amount—plus some additional contractual perks.

$20 million: **Nicolas Cage, Eddie Murphy, Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Leonardo DiCaprio, Vin Diesel, Cameron Diaz, Bruce Willis** and **Keanu Reeves.**

$17.5 million: **George Clooney,** Ben Affleck and **Brad Pitt.**

$15 million: **Jack Nicholson, Jodie Foster, Ben Stiller, Sandra Bullock** and **Reese Witherspoon.**

$14 million: **Drew Barrymore**

$12 million: **Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Lopez** and **Angelina Jolie.**

$10 million: **Matt Damon, Halle Berry** and **Renee Zellweger.**

$8 million: **Tobey Maguire** and **Colin Farrell.**

$2 million: **Kate Hudson.**

It's interesting to see that relative newcomers like Adam Sandler, Will Smith and Mike Myers now rate $25 million, right up there with the top Toms (Hanks and Cruise) of the film world.

This is due to the extraordinary success that Sandler has enjoyed with his goofy comedies, Smith with the "Men In Black" series, and Myers with his "Austin Powers" film franchise.

Also instructive are the names in the $20-million bracket. They include veteran Bruce Willis, who's no longer as popular as he used to be, and younger stars on the way up, like DiCaprio and, the biggest surprise of them all, Vin Diesel.

Diesel making more money than George Clooney and Jack Nicholson? That's a major coup—and a sign that viewers' tastes are changing. If this trend continues, we can expect to see stranger names moving up Hollywood's superstar escalator.

Similarly, we're surprised to see that Cameron Diaz is getting paid more ($20 million) than Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Lopez ($12 million). And that Reese Witherspoon ($15 million) is more valuable to producers than Angelina Jolie ($12 million).

Again, the explanation is the comparative box-office showing of their respective films. In the movie world, a star's value is computed in relation to how well or poorly his recent starrers have done at the tills, so even superstars know only too well that they're really only as good as their last picture.

'Himala' 2

THE MALE cast members of Tanghalang Pilipino's current production of "Himala," the musical, at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute is led by Germany-based musical theater artist **Eladio Pamaran.**

We remember directing Eladio in OPM's Fe S. Panlilio Scholarship competition. He was only a gangly teen in those days, but his tenor voice stood out. He was also a hard worker who applied himself seriously to the task at hand.

We weren't surprised when he was tapped to perform in "Miss Saigon" in Europe, where he has also sung in other musicals. Eladio clearly loves doing musical theater, and deserves the success he's enjoying.

But, as we keep telling Filipino musical artists who have performed abroad, they should eventually come home to share what they've learned with audiences here. As the likes of **Robert Seña, Isay Alvarez** and **Jamie Rivera** have found out, it can be both fulfilling and financially rewarding.

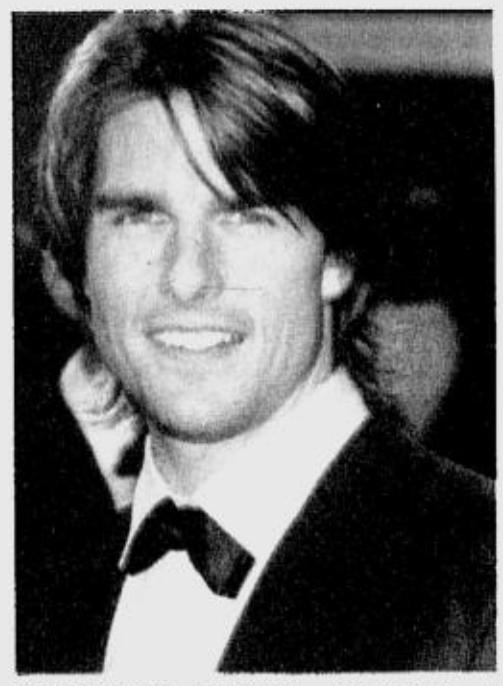
Jun Villanueva understudies the roles of Orly and Pilo in "Himala." Our recollection of him is that he played the teenage Rizal in the Musical Theater Philippines' musical, "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?" which we directed. Jun has an outstanding singing voice that should eventually enable him to play lead roles in musicals in theater seasons to come.

And **Ariel Reonal,** who's cast as Pilo in "Himala," was one of our finalists for the role of Rizal in the same musical—another standout talent who has a bright future ahead of him!

'Chasing Time: Marrakech'

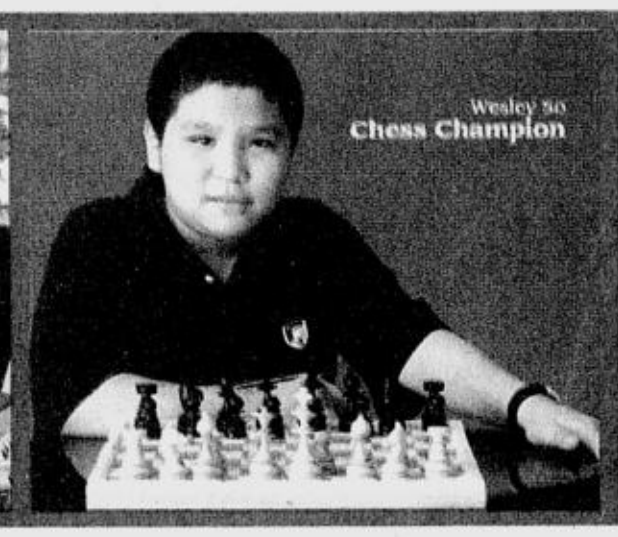
THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel's "Chasing Time" race at 10 p.m. today, Nov. 23, takes contestants and viewers to the exotic city of Marrakech. Early clues lead contestants to an animal tannery, where they find themselves knee-deep in animal fluids.

More agreeably, they soon find themselves in the beautiful gardens of the Jardin Majorelle, which belongs to Moroccan-born couturier **Yves St. Laurent.** Other encounters are with a snake charmer, a doughnut seller, a water carrier, a sheep, a camel—and a plate of cooked sheep brains and testicles.



TOM CRUISE and Julia Roberts both belong to the $25-million league.

The Filipino Gifted Children.



Let us nurture more of them.

From today's Gifted Children may rise tomorrow's great leaders — tomorrow's national artists, sports champions, statesmen and presidents. Our future depends on how well we nurture their gifts today.

The Philippine Government recognizes these Gifted Children, and has declared every 4th week of November as "The National Week for the Gifted and Talented." A celebration in support of these extraordinary young minds. With the aim of providing the gifted with opportunities, encouragement and greater attention to help develop their potentials to the fullest.

Your child could be among our nation's great hopes. Let us do our share in nurturing more gifted children.

The National Week for the Gifted.
November 23 to 29, 2003

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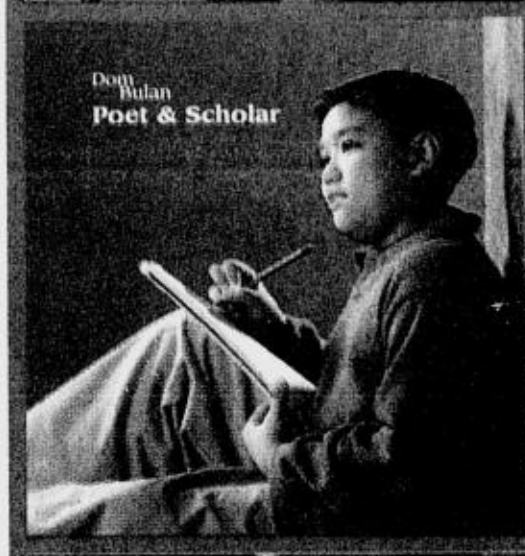

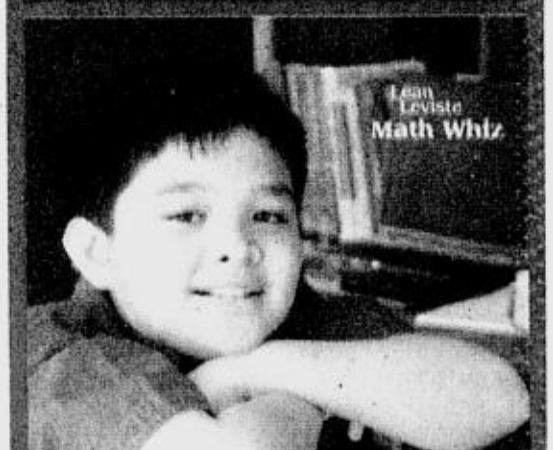

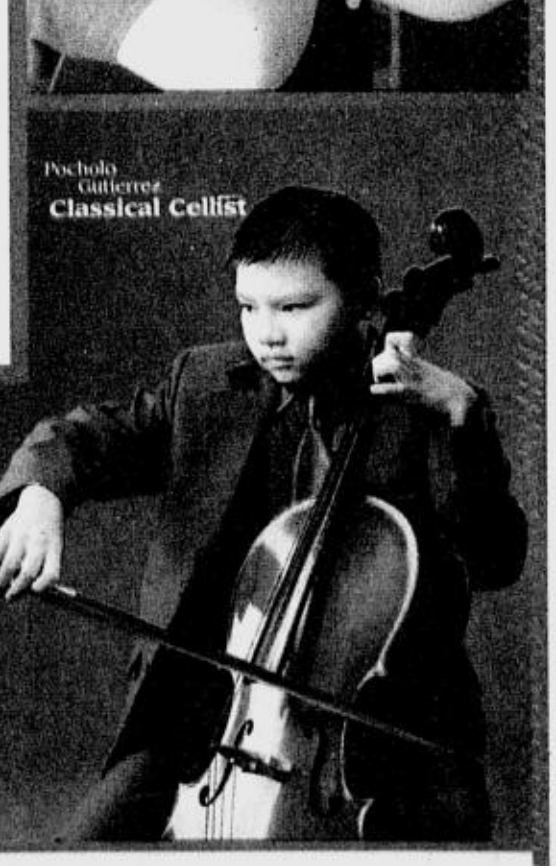

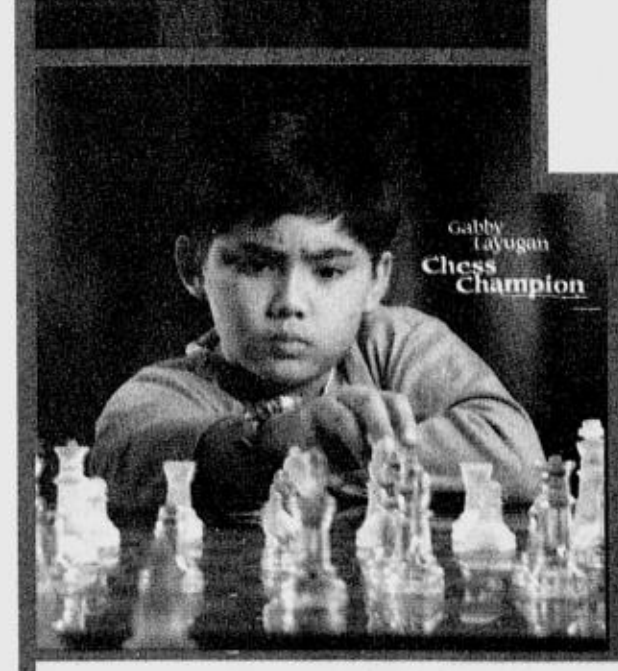

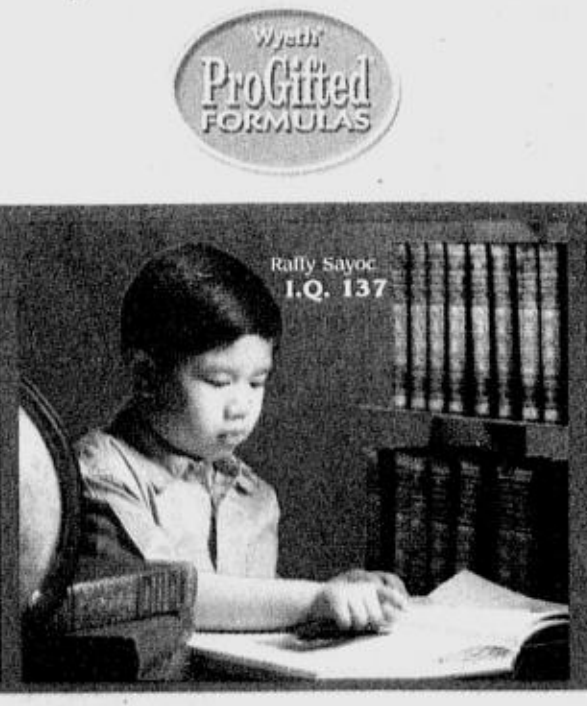

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November 26 and 27, 2003	(Wednesday and Thursday)	**GMA**	Alabang Town Center
November 29 and 30, 2003	(Saturday and Sunday)	**Baguio City**	Abanao Square
December 6 and 7, 2003	(Saturday and Sunday)	**Lipa, Batangas**	Robinson's Place Lipa
December 13 and 14, 2003	(Saturday and Sunday)	**Imus, Cavite**	Robinson's Place Imus

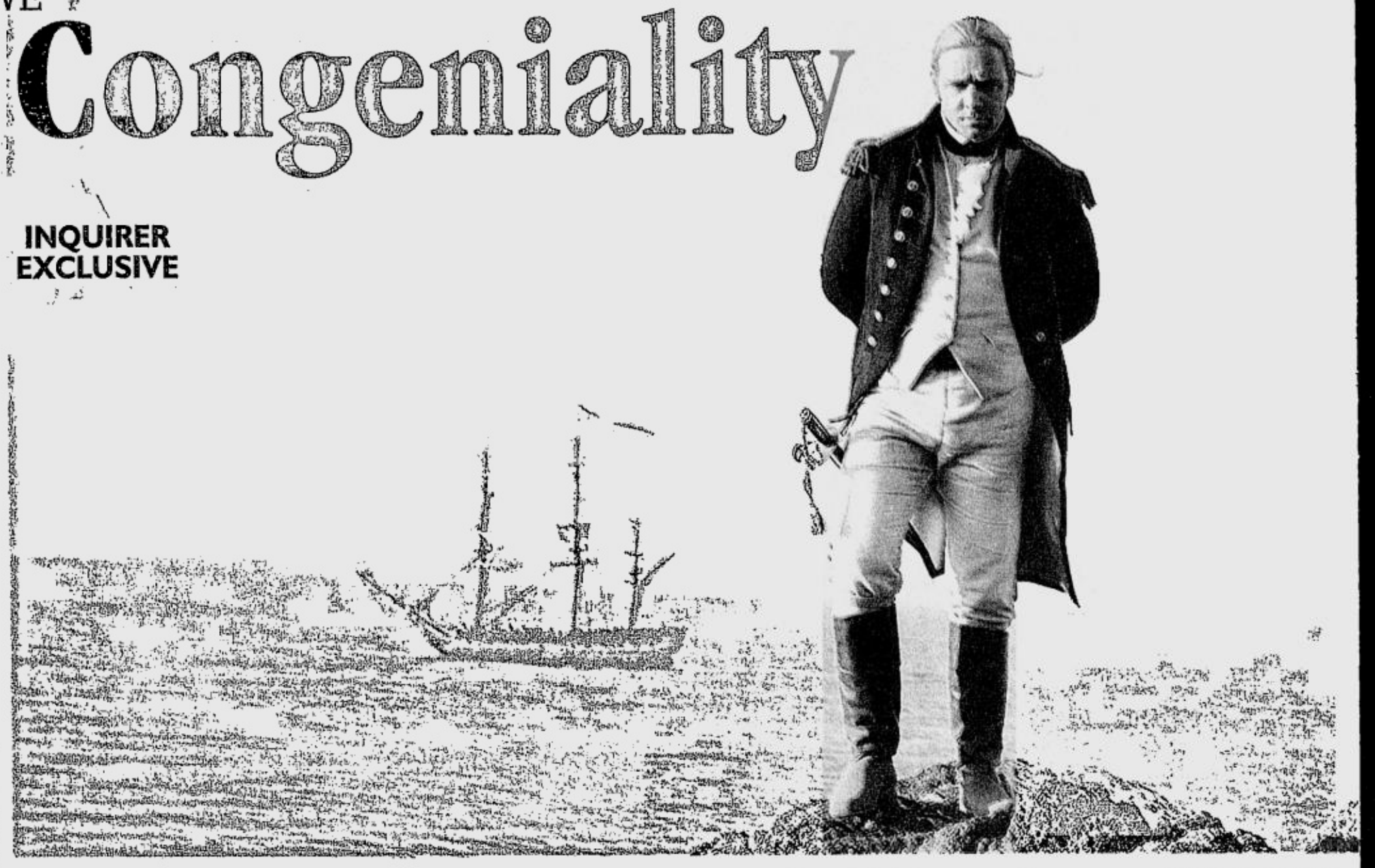
Wyeth

SURPRISE! Actor star Vin Diesel is in the $20-million bracket.

RUSSEL CROWE

Mr. Congeniality

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE



JACK IN THE BOAT. Crowe is at sea as Capt. Jack Aubrey in "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," with "A Beautiful Mind" co-star Bettany (with him at right)

By Ruben V. Nepales
L.A. Correspondent

SANTA MONICA—"Is this really the surly Russell Crowe whose interview articles are often dotted with hyphens to fill in the cuss words he utters as often as actors change their agents?

At the posh Shutters on the Beach hotel in Santa Monica, the 2001 Oscar best actor ("Gladiator") is funny, accommodating and, dare I say it, charming.

I was prepared for an interview laced with "f--k," "s--t," "f--k off" and for the variation "f-----g c--ks," but here I am ready to vote for Crowe as Hollywood's Mr. Congeniality.

He smiles throughout the interview, he raises a "stop" hand sign to the 20th Century Fox publicist who comes to get him (we get extra time with him as a result) and answers in detail the reporters' questions.

Most telling of all, he dropped by earlier in this same room to chat with Max Pirkis, his young co-actor in the splendid epic, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World." Sitting on a chair, Russell looked up at the standing Max, 13, very much like a father listening with pride to his son's updates, as they conversed in hushed voices.

Russell, in regulatory Hollywood black (fleece vest, tee, red-striped athletic pants and Nike shoes), is a lot fairer and younger-looking in person. Curls graze his forehead while a beard gives character to an otherwise soft chin. He looks trim again. He had to gain pounds to be, as he says in his Aussie accent, "lah-jah" (larger) in the role of the noble, swashbuckling captain beloved by millions of readers worldwide.

Good cheer

While he does call himself an Aussie, Russell was born in New Zealand but his family moved to Australia when he was four. He has been quoted describing himself as having the persistence of a New Zealander and the happy-go-lucky attitude of an Australian.

On this gorgeous California afternoon by the beach, the volatile Russell, who is known for his brawls as much as his acting prowess, is simply in a good mood. Even some of his gently mocking replies to writers are delivered with a smile and good cheer:

"I don't know, mate. You write the f-----g stories." (That is the only "f" mention in this chat.)

"Neither Paul (Bettany) nor I were in 'A Dangerous Mind.' We were in a movie called 'A Beautiful Mind.'" (If I was the reporter who got his movie titles wrong when asking Russell a question, I would have fled the room, jumped into the Pacific and never stopped swimming until I reached Manila.)

To a reporter who likes to read a major attitude change behind Russell's relaxed, cheery attitude today, the actor says, "I've been nervous in interviews. Is that what you're saying? Ha! Really." The writer mumbles about a previous interview with him in Berlin. Russell asks, "Are you sure that was my fault or you're mistaking my life with the intensity of my schedule that time?"

Unchanged

To another journalist who is also probably dreaming of an earth-shaking article—that marriage to singer-actress Danielle Spencer has tamed Australia's "bad boy"—the 39-year-old states, "My answer to your question is, whatever you want to write" while making shoveling gestures to imply that the scribe is digging s---t. When he says this with a twinkle in those eyes and mirth in his laughter not yet captured in any of his lauded screen roles, it sounds like a boy full of glee. It is easy to see why Meg Ryan and many women have fallen for him.

The would-be father decides to answer the question anyway: "Look, marriage hasn't changed me, alright? I didn't get married to be changed. If I changed, the woman whom I married would throw me out. She didn't marry me so that I would develop a set of stripes where I had spots before. That's not what it's all about. Priorities shift but they shift with age and maturity as well, not just because you got married. And not just because of impending fatherhood.

"People keep asking me questions about what kind of father I'm going to be. I don't know who my boy is yet. I've never met him. I'll be, hopefully, the father that he needs."

$135M epic

Talk veers to "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World." It's a beautiful film based on the first and 10th novels of Patrick O'Brian's 20-novel series which has a huge, rabid reader fan base all over the globe. Director Peter Weir has succeeded in making a lyrical sea saga set in 1805 starring Russell (Captain Jack Aubrey) and Paul Bettany (ship doctor and naturalist), two friends aboard a British warship that is chasing a French frigate. In the course of the pursuit along the South American coast, this possible Oscar contender shows spectacular ocean storms, battle sequences, grisly surgeries and a first-time ever feature film shoot on the magical Galapagos Islands.

It's a film that grows on you. Although the production design of his $135-million epic is impressive, Weir is too good a master storyteller to overwhelm you with gee-whiz visual grandstanding. Rather, images of the frigate HMS Surprise adrift in mist at sea or of the strange Galapagos landscape and the subtly effective performances come back stealthily and linger even days after I've seen the movie at the 20th Century Fox lot.

Russell, a three-time Academy best actor nominee, is eminently watchable.

Physical requirements

He confirms an aborted plan to gain pounds to stay true to the description of Jack Aubrey by the late novelist O'Brien.

"I was actually going to be a lot larger. But Peter (Weir) decided after about six weeks against it. The books have Jack going between 14 and 17 stones (238 pounds), depending on the length of the journey and the availability of foodstuff. We were looking for a larger, rounded Jack at the beginning but Peter decided that he wanted to see Jack being completely physically capable. He wasn't sure that at 17 stones, I would be as nimble and sure-footed on the boat."

Apparently, he was ready to look like Marlon Brando if that's what the character required. "I don't have any problems whatsoever in complying with the physical requirements of a character," he says as he pours Evian from a tall bottle into a glass.

"I fulfill the needs of my characters. The image that is promoted in newspapers and magazines to the world has nothing to do with me. I'm completely comfortable with myself as a person."

20 hours of practice

Russell also plunged into violin lessons, since his character enjoys playing duets with Bettany's Stephen Maturin, a cellist, when there are no battles being fought or storms tossing The Surprise (filming was on the same huge water tank in Mexico where director James Cameron sank his Titanic).

He admits, "Tiger fights, helicopter stunts, gunfights aside, nothing has been a more difficult stunt than learning to play the violin. She is a very harsh mistress. But I made a pact with myself that I couldn't pretend to be a violinist until I knew that I could make a beautiful sound out of the instrument.

"So I did eighteen, twenty

RUSSEL/ C7

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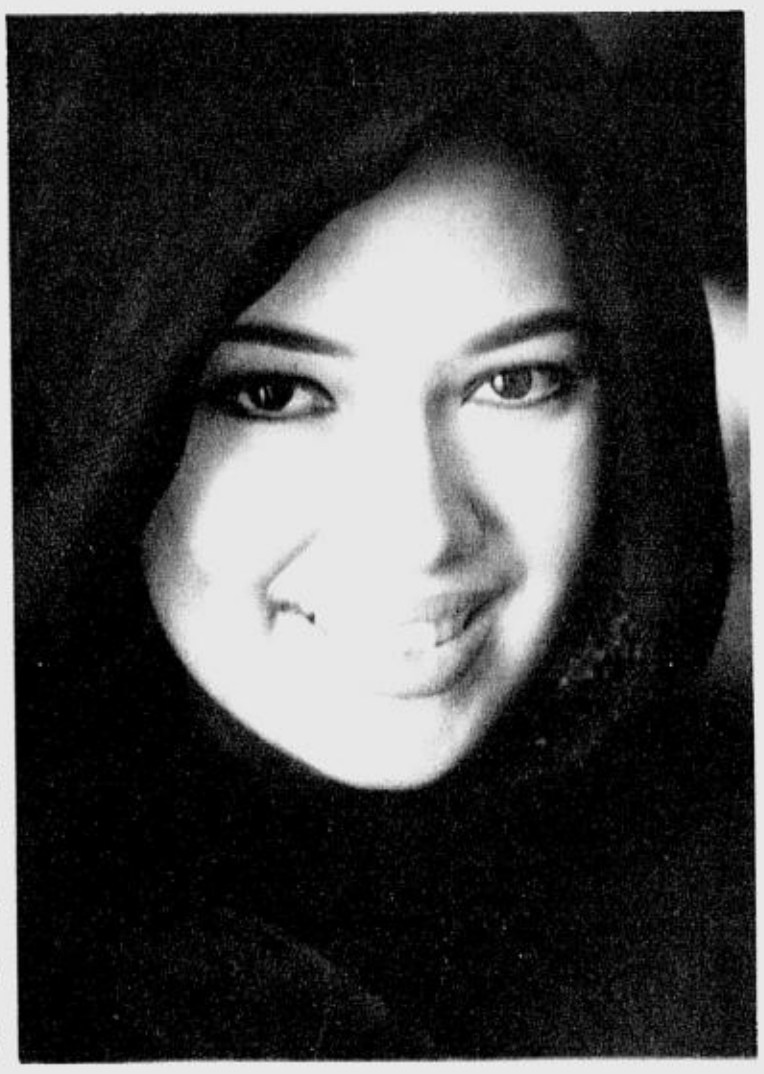

RUFFA'S HAIR AND MAKEUP BY WENDY AND ANITA OF RICKY REYES SALON PHOTO BY OCS ALVAREZ/YES! MAGAZINE

'Thank God, now I'm far from the Philippines. I'm far from the prying eyes of the public. Imagine Yilmaz and I living in Manila? I think it would be crazy'

Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas Speaking...

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

[NOVEMBER 19] I've just been back two days! Eight months *akong nawala sa Pilipinas*, but I'm always well-informed. By everybody! So I know *din* what people are saying about me. You know, if you do something simple, let's say *nag-away kaming mag-asawa; lalabas na parang nagkaroon ng* World War III, *parang* everything gets blown out of proportion.

The last time was when Channel 7 interviewed me in Istanbul. They were knocking on my door and I was in Dubai. *Siyempre, ang tsismis na dito, nag-alsa balutan na si* Ruffa, *si* **Yilmaz [Bektas]** *at* Ruffa *hiwalay na! Naku, 'no*!

The reason why Yilmaz and I had a disagreement was because *ayaw niya akong payagan umuwi* because, he said, we have to plan this. "**Lorin**'s still small, she's three months old, and it's just gonna be you and her on the plane." And I said, "*Naku*, it's my mom's birthday, I just wanna surprise her, make her happy." So I flew.

When Lorin and I got to Dubai, *mukha na akong lantang gulay*. My goodness, I was carrying her stroller, I was carrying her, I had two other bags! I was crying to my mom, "Can you get the next flight and pick me up?" *Wala daw* flights, two days *pa. Eh naubusan na si* Lorin *ng gatas*! And then Yilmaz was, like, "Just come back, come back!" My mom *naman, "Ano ka ba? Nakalahati ka na ng daan*, just come here!" *Siyempre*, I flew back to Turkey.

No, I had no *tampo. Tampo siya*. Because *bakit daw ako* excited *umuwi*, you know? *Bakit daw matigas ang ulo ko*? I brought Lorin *daw* without any help. So this time around, we did it the right way. We had my mom go to Istanbul, she stayed there for three days, *pahinga siya*. Then we came home together. So, it's okay *pala* to ask for help, it's fine.

Two years ago, "Oh, I'm here, I'm traveling there, I'm hosting this event, I'm with this celebrity." And now it's like, "O Ruffa, *anong ginagawa mo sa* Istanbul?" You know, they look at me with sad eyes *na parang, "Hindi ka ba nabo*-bore *doon*?"

You know what? In the beginning, yeah, I did get lonely. But not bored. It's fun living in a different city and learning about a different culture. But *siyempre*, you miss your old friends, your family. That's why Yilmaz allowed me to come home, this trip. He's like, "I sent you home so you could be with your family, you can have coffee with your friends, work a little bit."

It's not a matter of needing to work. It's basically just feeding your brain, and you know, just being happy seeing old friends like **Carmina** and **Gelli**. But I can't do movies, because that means I'll have to be here a long time. So it's mainly just TV, photo shoots, interviews. I can't work past 10 p.m. because I have a baby and I can't bring her to the studio. No soaps—too long, that's *lamay, buong magdamag. Ayaw akong mapagod ng asawa ko*!

Oh, and next month I'm launching my website: www.ruffagutierrez.com

But the past three months in Turkey, basically I've just been nesting. I'm not gonna lie, I don't know how to cook. I'm afraid I might burn the whole kitchen, but I think one of these days I'll surprise Yilmaz with a Turkish dish.

I stay home most of the time. I'll leave the house probably like 3 p.m., I'll go to the spa for two hours, I'll go shopping for Lorin. I don't shop *na nga* for myself, *lahat* for her! I work out in the evening, like 6-7:30, in our house. We have a gym downstairs, so I don't go far. I'll get my Walkman, and I'll start walking on the treadmill listening to Beyoncé. I only have 15 more pounds that I should lose! When I was pregnant, I went up to 180, and oh my god that's my dad's weight!

To other people, my life will be boring. Yilmaz and I usually wake up late, like, maybe 12 noon, 1 o'clock. When he gets home from work, what we usually do is we watch DVDs until, like, four in the morning. We're the type that, you know, we can be in the room for three days just talking about everything under the sun. It can be politics, history, religion, just about everything. Yilmaz loves watching Discovery, National Geographic.

That's all we really do. You know, we're just bonding. Yilmaz and I, we're like Siamese twins, we're always together, we're like two happy clams.

Yilmaz is very conservative. He's the type that will protect his wife, his family. He always stresses that he wants a very clean life. Clean, respectable life, you know, like a good family life. You know, with dogs. We have so many pets in the house. He's an animal lover. You can't kill an ant! He fired his chef once because his chef killed all the black ants in the kitchen. Finire *niya kasi* the ants *daw may buhay din daw*. The only thing that I'm allowed to kill are flies!

His business is very hard. He's into petroleum, jewelry, diamonds. And we just opened a casino and a hotel in Cyprus, so he's busy. He's always stressed. Ever since we got married, basically he's working for himself, he doesn't get any help from his parents any more, so we're on our own. Which is good.

I'm not involved in any of his businesses. Not yet, I think it's too early. Maybe next year, I'm not in a rush. Now everything is the way that we planned it to be. By January of next year we're gonna start traveling *na*. We plan to go visit the Ice Hotel in Sweden, *napaka*-exciting, everything's made of ice. And then from the airport *daw* going to the hotel, the dogs are gonna take us in bobsleds.

And we're gonna go to the Mal-

RUFFA/ C6

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'I Am Woman' at CPP tonight

YAMANI

VERNIE Varga performs as a guest in Yamani's first major concert, "I am Woman... Yamani @ the CCP," tonight and on Dec. 2, 8:30 p.m., at the CCP Little Theater.

Also joining Yamani are Calvin Millado, Gladys Guevarra and the Whiplash Dancers.

Dubbed the "princess of music lounges," Yamani performs every Tuesday and Saturday at Calesa Bar at Hyatt Regency, and Thursday at Richmonde Hotel.

She also performs in the show "Can-Can" at the Star Theater of Star City every Sunday.

SHOW TIME

Tickets to "I am Woman... Yamani @ the CCP" are P400 and P800, and are available at TicketWorld—National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store Malate and Galleria, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, Music Museum, Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby-Ayala Center, Greenbelt 1 and Glorietta 1 and online at the TicketWorld website, www.ticketworld.com.ph.

For inquiries and reservations; call 891-5610.

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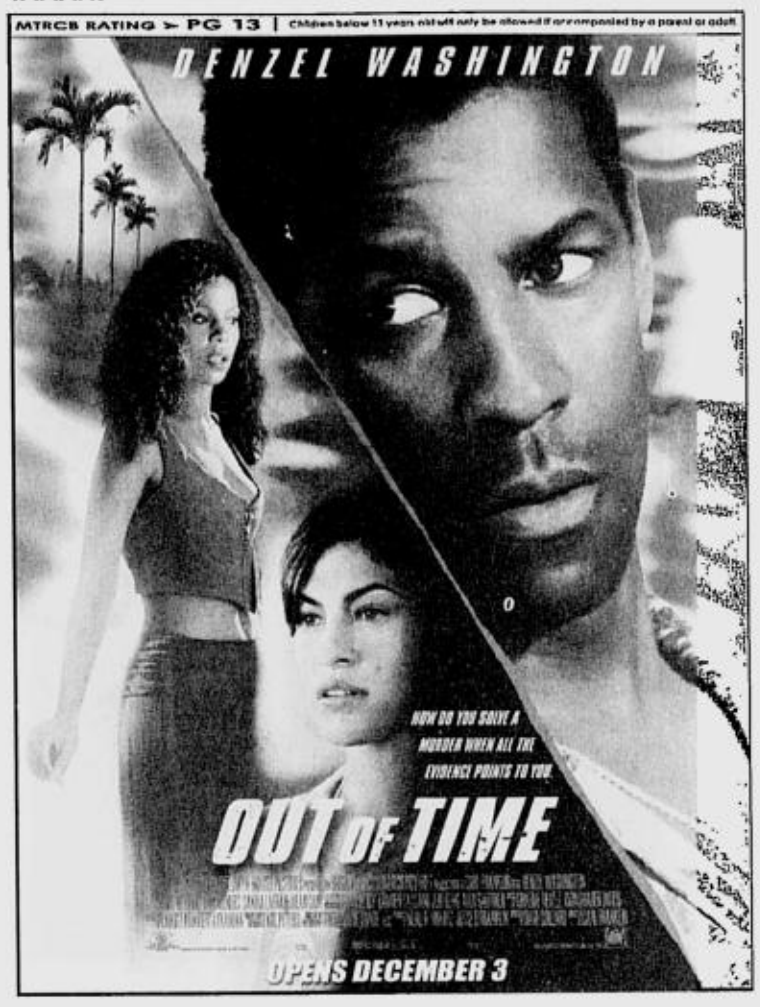

Jessa 'Reborn' again at Hard Rock Café

ZARAGOZA

JESSA Zaragoza performs in a repeat of her successful show, "Jessa... Reborn," on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at the Hard Rock Café.

In its Nov. 18 staging, also at Hard Rock, the concert attracted a packed audience that included a number of balikbayans from Guam, London and the US.

Also in the crowd were stars Maui Taylor, Aljohn Jimenez and wife Manilyn Reynes, Marissa Sanchez, Mommy Rose Flaminiano of FLT Films, talent managers Dondon Monteverde and Manny Valera, who is also Jessa's manager, as well as members of the press.

The energetic Jessa took time out only to give way to guest Carlos Agassi, who rendered two rap numbers.

On Nov. 25, Jessa's special guest is Luke Mejares.

The repeat performance is sponsored by Bum Equipment, George Bantolino of Salon de Orient, Weighless Centre, and People's Journal Inc. It is also a co-production of Phenomenal Entertainment and Hard Rock Café. For inquiries, call DMV Entertainment, 374-1361 or 415-0373, or Marcy, (0917) 624-6536.

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MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX SCANDAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LIBERATED
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(581-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-3	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-6	MAPAMUKSO
CINEMA-7	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE 3
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-15	MR. SUAVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-1	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-2	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-4	IDENTITY

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas speaking...

From page C4

dives for our honeymoon, since we didn't have a honeymoon, *di ba*? But we had a Muslim wedding *na* in Istanbul, last September 4, in the living room of our Acarkent home. My dad, mom, **Jun Lalin**, and Yilmaz's family were there. An imam officiated. Muslim *na ako*. My Muslim name is Yasmeen.

I can say now that I'm very fulfilled as a person. Everything has fallen into place. Our relationship is perfect. Yilmaz and I are very much in love, and I will do everything *para maging buo ang pamilya namin*.

Masarap pala ang may anak. Pero kung dati-dati I wanted to have five children, now I only wanna have two or maybe three at the most. I feel that I'm blessed and I'm so happy, you know! Thank God, now I'm far from the Philippines. I'm far from the prying eyes of the public. Imagine Yilmaz and I living in Manila? *I* think it would be crazy. I think it's such a stress going out, meeting people, going to bars. And *he'd* rather have a home-cooked meal than go out and socialize.

I mean, ever since *naman*, I've wanted to look for my soulmate. And now Yilmaz is my soulmate.

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Caparas slams critics for helping 'kill' industry

From page C2

but worthwhile, the project will be profitable because people will go for it.

"Even if I fail with this project, I would still be happy as a filmmaker because I attempted to dream big."

With "Chavit," the movie, Caparas hopes to create what he called a jackrabbit effect so that "producers who are content in making small-budget movies" would not spare expenses when they think of their next projects.

"They have also caused the death of the film industry here when they started to make small pictures," Caparas said, referring to the producers.

Caparas also noted that when movie industry people are appointed members of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, they are even stricter with their censorship policies than government people.

"Instead of enlightening the non-show biz people, they are the ones who even make it more difficult for a controversial film (to survive the censors' scissors)," he said.

"I know I will have new enemies because of my statements, but I will not be the man you knew before if I were not bold in my stand," he said. "I have already reached a stage where I can still survive (in the industry) while new directors only cower in fear."

But Caparas said he was "no crusader."

"I just want to express my sentiments," he stressed.

Award-laden actor Cesar Montano plays Singson in the Caparas movie. Montano is a veteran of three other Caparas movies: "Antipolo Massacre," "Annabelle Huggins Story," and "Lilian Velez Story."

"He (Cesar) is the most bankable actor today," said Caparas. "He's also a very good actor."

Like Caparas' previous movies based on sensational crime cases, "Chavit" will drip with blood, as the trailer shows.

"Gov (Singson) led a very dangerous life," Caparas said. "He is a remarkable man in that he has survived so many attempts on his life, and we showed all this in the film."

CROWE CO-STAR. Off-camera, Crowe treats Max Pirkis, 13, like a son

Russel Crowe: Mr. Congeniality

From page C4

hours a week of practice over a number of months. I had three different teachers. One is from the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Richard Tognetti, who is an old friend of mine. Another is also from the Australian Chamber Orchestra. The third is a bloke from here, Los Angeles, a mathematician named Robert Greene.

"This is an interesting connection. Robert Greene rang me, just before we started shooting. He said, 'Look, you don't really know me but you might have known my voice.' I said, 'How's that?' He answered, 'Well, I did a recording for your dialect coach (for Russell's accent as a math prof in 'A Beautiful Mind' although the actor eventually emulated US Sen. Robert Byrd's accent). I'm the head of mathematics at UCLA. I heard you have to play the violin in your next movie. For your service to mathematics (Russell laughs like a mirthful boy; it is almost like a giggle), for making mathematics sexy (Russel titters harder), I would like to help you if you need anything.'

Art within him

"So that began an incredible relationship. Robert developed a series of notations which allowed me to learn to play the violin faster, applying mathematics to the music and also to my individual personality and the way I see things. I spent a lot of time learning to play the violin. Obviously, when you watch the film, my 'scratching' has been replaced.

"Originally, the prop department had a very heavy, dramatic violin for Jack. And I just thought that it did not reflect Jack's personality. There's fineness and an art within Jack. I went out and found a violin made in Milan that was delicate. It was beautiful, the tone was gorgeous. If you're a musician, that's what it's about.

"Peter talked to me about the man who has been in the ship since he was a boy, whose fingers are rough and callused, playing this delicate instrument and extracting the most beautiful sound. To me, that was the most attractive thing about the character from the outset. Peter put in my imagination this authoritative figure who has this art within him."

Anticipating the next question, Russell says no, he hasn't played the violin in his rock band, 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, since he learned to play this instrument. He is the group's lead singer, guitarist and songwriter.

X number

The extent to which Russell commits to his film projects extends to his cast and crew. "I tried to set an environment, particularly on a film like this, which is about keeping the fantasy alive. So for example, on day one, when the sailors (130 boys and men, cast not to look Hollywood-ish, so the search was from Poland to Sudan) arrived, they all received a vest, a t-shirt, a long-sleeved shirt, three name badges, needle and thread.

"They had an x number (this phrase seems to be his favorite) of hours to sew the name badges on the vest, t-shirt, and long-sleeved shirt. Instructions were given to them that there was to be no help from the wardrobe department. The name badges had to be sewn on by the men themselves. The next day, the officers, not just myself, but all the officers of the ship, walked around the people in their respective departments and checked to see if they could pull the names badges off. If the badges came off, the men had to start all over again.

Not about ego

"This was not about ego. That's rubbish. This was about establishing the hierarchy of the navy. This was about the military system that they had to get used to. They also underwent a very intensive course on rigging, gunnery, prevailing winds—everything. All of which I have done beforehand. So if anybody asked me a question, I can answer it myself as opposed to me going, hmmm, hold on a second, let me get back to you. That would not have been really inspiring to all the captains.

"Another example is that I knew they would have an intense three weeks of training. So at the end of the third week, I took them all to San Diego. When I say all, I'm talking about the principal cast. I got each of them a hotel room.

"We had a little bit of ceremony on the beach. The next day, I took them to SeaWorld. We went to the dolphins. The experience with dolphins was to keep everybody focused but you do it, I suppose, from a benign leadership. You're helping set the platform."

He is cautious when answering if Jack Aubrey becomes a franchise role for him. "Would I want to play this character again? Sure, but let's have a look at what kind of adventure would that be. But step one, let's see if anyone goes to this one."

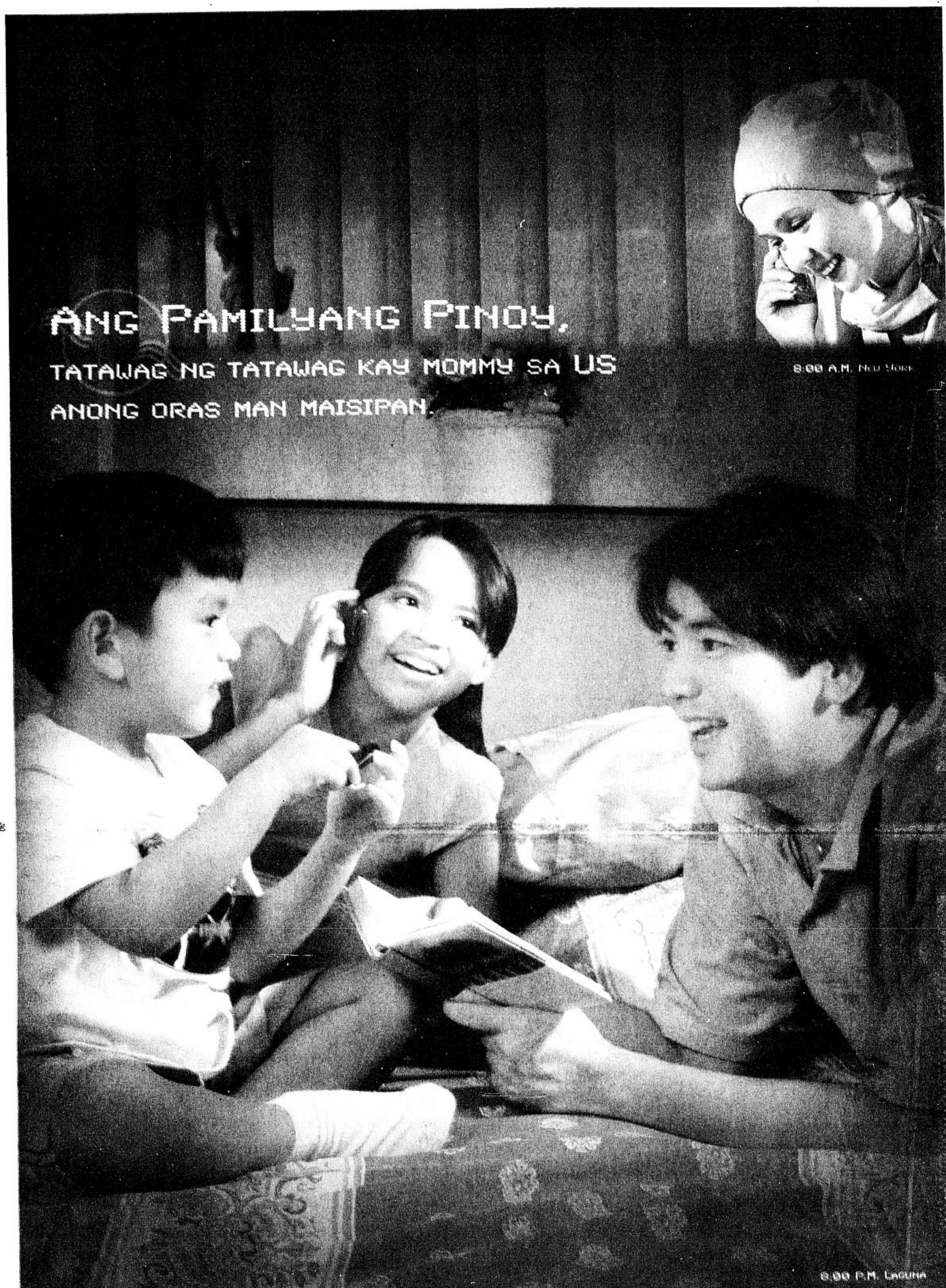
My son the gypsy

On fame, Russell muses as he strokes his beard, "I didn't set out to be successful in terms of the trappings. What I set out to do was to become the best actor that I could be and to commit myself to every role that I play."

The Gladiator-as-daddy plans to be busy making films in the coming few years. "I see that in the next five years, I'll probably work more," he declares. "My son won't understand the difference between a room in Berlin, Stockholm or Australia. All he requires is for his mother and I to be there and create the environment around him. So for the first five years of his life, he's definitely going to be a gypsy and he's going to be wherever I am. However, when he starts school, I'll have a different attitude."

With those words, Russell finally stands up, to the relief of the publicist who has been sitting on the floor while waiting for her Oscar-winning charge. But reporters trail and ask more questions. And guess what? Russell obliges and answers all of them.

Russell Crowe, surly? Not this afternoon.



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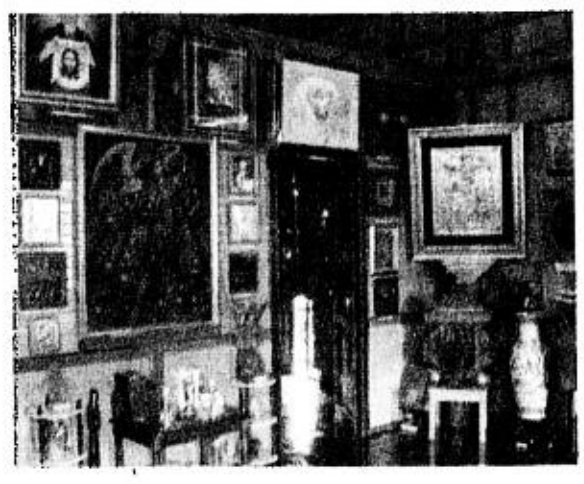
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

In this issue

Playtime with international author Jessica Hagedorn /F1

Manansala makes waves /I1

Angara-Mondonedo nuptials /J1



Romance and religiosity in Oslob /L1

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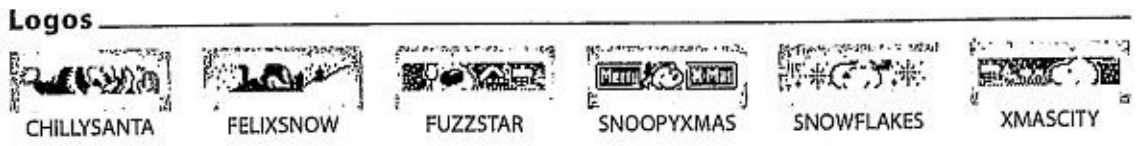

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Celebrity family enjoys plasma TV

THEY are the most popular couple in the entertainment industry: He a multi-talented actor and athlete, she a renowned beauty who has graced many TV commercials and ads.

Now married for three years, Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres are the proud parents of a lovely little girl named Julianna.

Lucy shares that both her and Richard's schedules revolves around their daughter, making sure that they spend a lot of time at home with her.

"Believe it or not, when we're all home, we just love to watch TV," says Lucy.

The family's favorite past time is to watch the children's educational shows on the Disney Channel, Julianna's favorite station. And when the adults get to control the remote, its either the action and adventure channel for Richard or the lifestyle network for Lucy.

What makes the Gomez family's TV time enjoyable is their Philips Pixel Plus Plasma TV. This new hi-tech television set provides outstanding picture clarity, thanks to Philips' revolutionary Pixel Plus technology. And with its powerful surround sound capability, this TV is perfect for viewing one's favorite films.

Indeed, for Richard and Lucy, curling up with Julianna in front of their Philips Pixel Plus Plasma TV is the best reason there is to stay home.

THE NEW Philips Pixel Plasma TV is a source of constant enjoyment in the home of Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres and their daughter Julianna.

Double Celebration![1]

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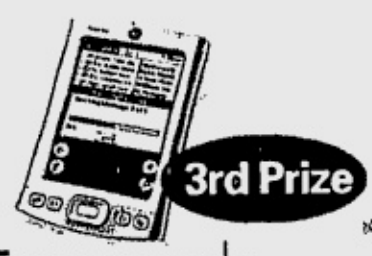

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3463 Series of 2003

Our usual weekday schedule is up to 7 pm.

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SCENEMAKERS

Pinay is cover of the week

FILIPINO top model Lucia Santiago is the cover of this week's issue of Newsweek Magazine. The issue probes the relationship between religion and health in its banner story. Now based in New York, Santiago belongs to the roster of the prestigious Calcarrie's International Models Philippines, the first international modeling agency in the country and the exclusive franchisee of Supermodel Search-Philippines.

MODEL BEHAVIOR
Naomi Campbell, last seen with angel's wings at the much-awaited (by men) Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, has been sued by a former administrative assistant who alleges the supermodel struck her and threw a phone at her during a tantrum two years ago in a Beverly Hills hotel. The lawsuit was filed in September in state Superior Court in Morris County, N.J. AP

DIAMOND MOUSE. Michael Eisner, chair and CEO of The Walt Disney Company (left) honors Mickey Mouse at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. Mickey is celebrating his 75th year in show business. REUTERS

PRESS FREEDOM. German-born photographer Helmut Newton gestures during a press conference in Paris. Newton donated pictures for a book sponsored by non-profit organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF) to defend jailed journalists around the world. REUTERS

LIZA WITH A ZING
Liza Minnelli has sued estranged husband David Gest for at least $2 million, claiming that he stole from her through expense deductions from money she earned in performances that he produced, or in which he acted as her agent. Gest had earlier sued her for $10 million for allegedly beating him severely. Minelli, 57, sued Gest for divorce, and Gest, 50, countersued for divorce within the past two weeks. Incidentally, Minnelli and Gest's best man at their March 2002 wedding was Michael "I'm bad" Jackson. AP

HANS Montenegro, Susan Roces, Cathy Gubalia, Sydney Go, Mary Rose Abad-Jimenez, Sasha Garcia and Maris Mortel

Grand launch of magazine for women

MEGA Magazines & Publications, Inc. (MMPI) recently launched Me magazine at The Loft in Rockwell, Makati City.

Among the highlights of the event was a fashion show which brought together Me magazine's staff and columnists.

They were Me editor in chief Cathy Guballa, associate editor Mary Rose Abad-Jimenez, fashion and beauty associate Sydney Go, editorial associate Maris Mortel, art director Sasha Garcia, Aliya Parcs, Angel Jacob, Cheska Tiu-Laurel, Gwen Cariño, Gay Domingo and Barbie Chan. They modeled Rajo Laurel's latest collection.

Guests got to unwind with the music of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, wine and dine with Absinth's mouth-watering fare.

Omega presented its collection of timepieces. At the BPI booth, aside from getting to know more about the BPI Express Payment System, guests also received cool items. In between the fun activities, lucky guests got the chance to win prizes.

The event ended on a high note when host Hans Montenegro called on celebrity guest, Susan Roces to share a few inspiring words.

Me magazine is available in all leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. Call 6312859.

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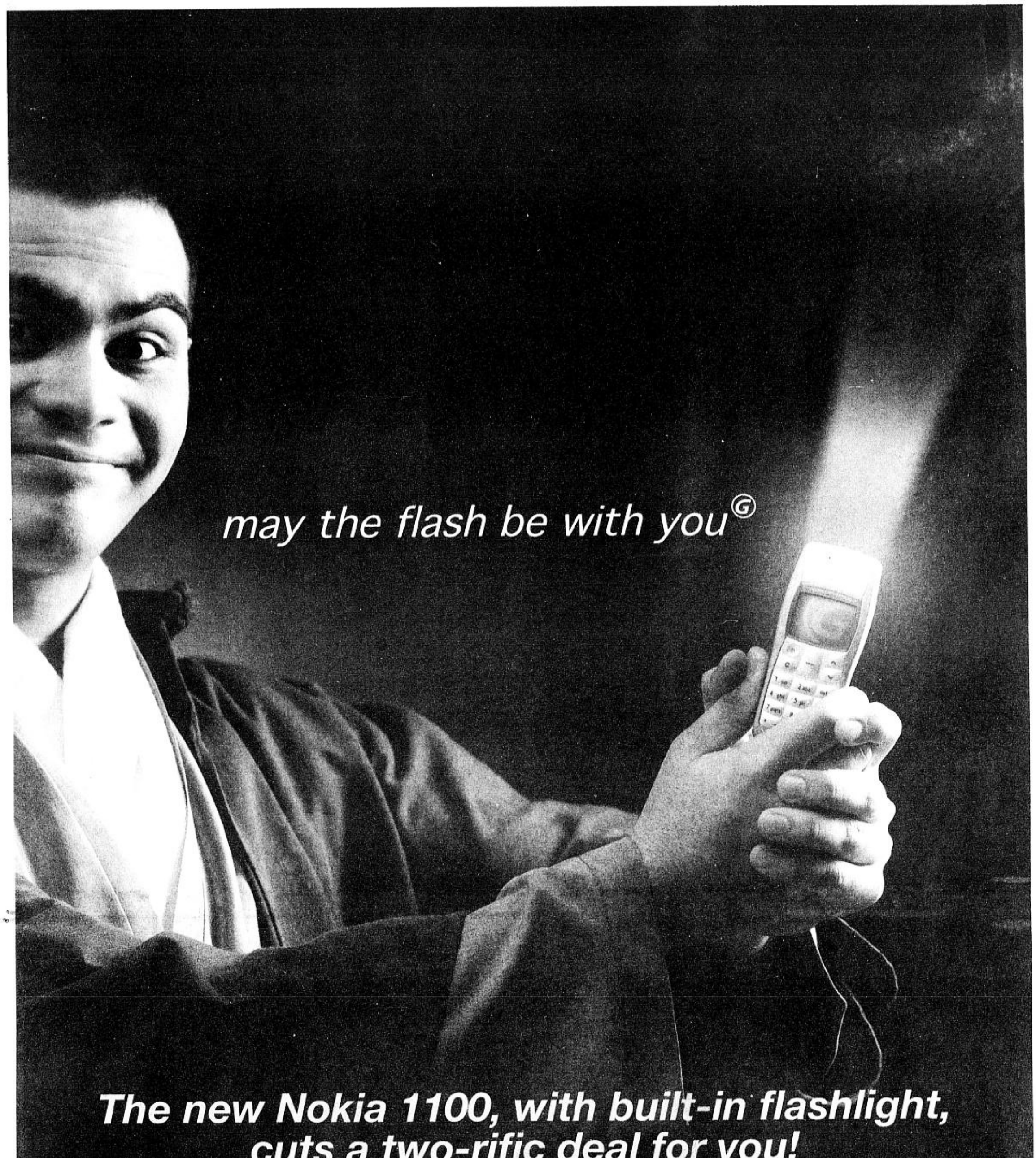

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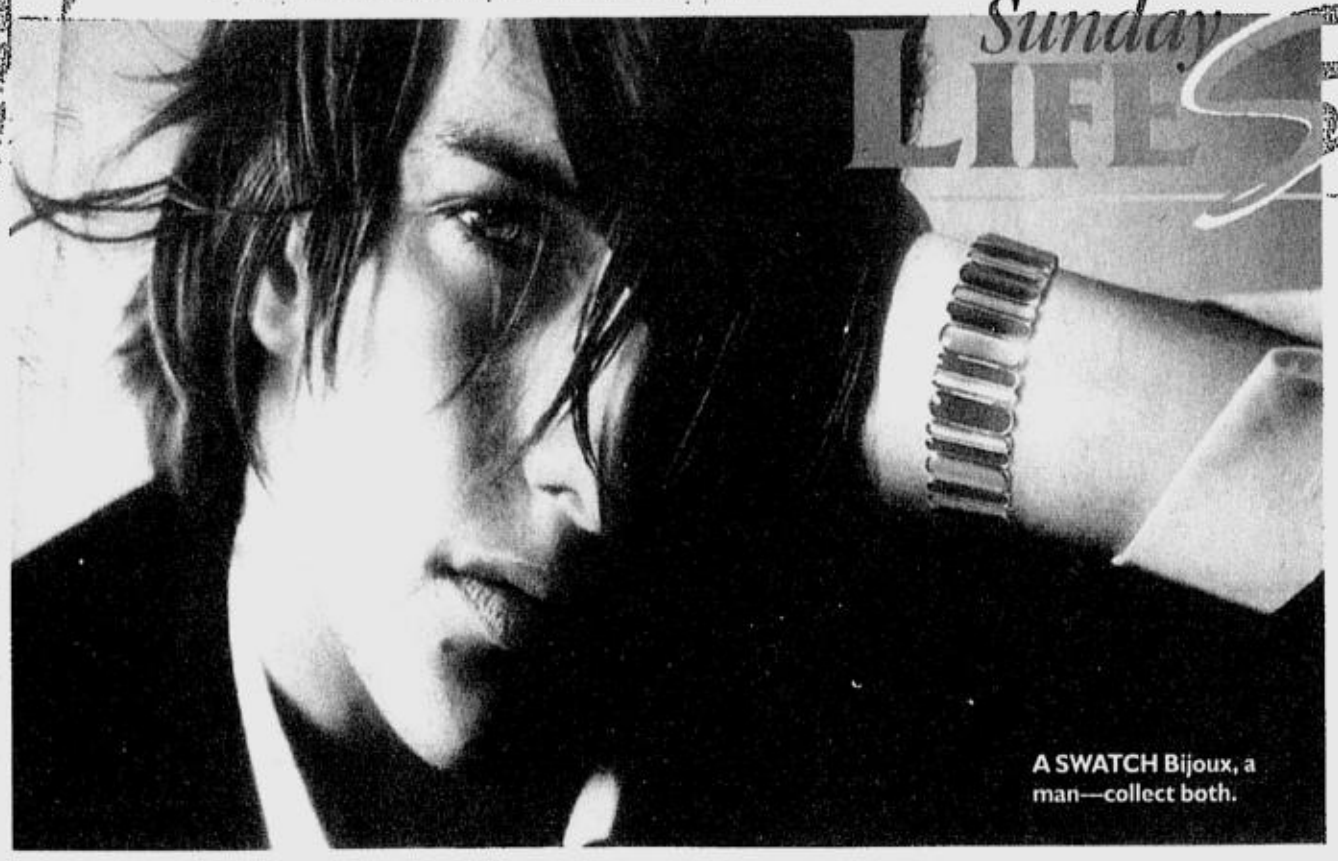


A SWATCH Bijoux, a man—collect both.

COIL and hug... sporting the Swatch Bijoux Amphibella

Accent on vogue jewelry for men

BIJOUX, the jewelry collection of Swatch, is an amazing fusion of cutting-edge and futuristic materials with design, creativity and flair.

Whether enjoyed as a set, each piece engaged on its own, or as a mix-and-match potpourri of vogue accessorizing, the Swatch Bijoux collection satisfies every mood, in colors of lilac, blue, red and green. It's all in the way it is worn.

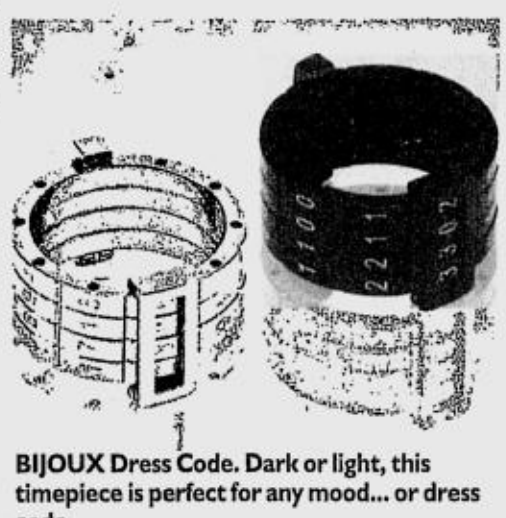
There are strands for movement, a bountiful palette for color, graphics for design, dimensional relief for texture, curves for flow and shapes for definition. And they come in the form of a necklace, a bracelet, earrings and a ring.

The idea is to collect everything. The exciting Bijoux Defile fitted bracelet, which is made of dark and light-colored synthetic resin with stainless steel, comes in combinations of dark and light blue, green, red or purple. Its square-shaped stainless ring with colored synthetic resin on two sides matches dark blue with orange, light blue with red, dark green with light green, and dark purple with light purple.

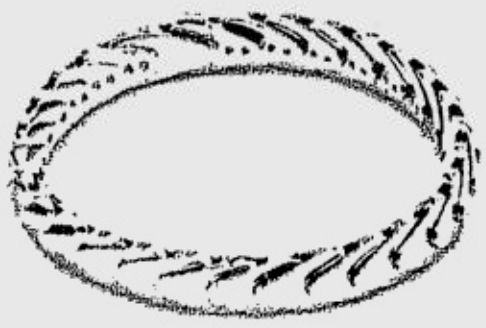
The Bijoux Amphibella bracelet, made of stainless-steel cut shapes set atop one another, has a sleek, sensual appeal.

Bijoux Dress Code, in silver or black tone, locks in the charm with a stainless-steel ring with four movable number-coded bands linked together with two side pins.

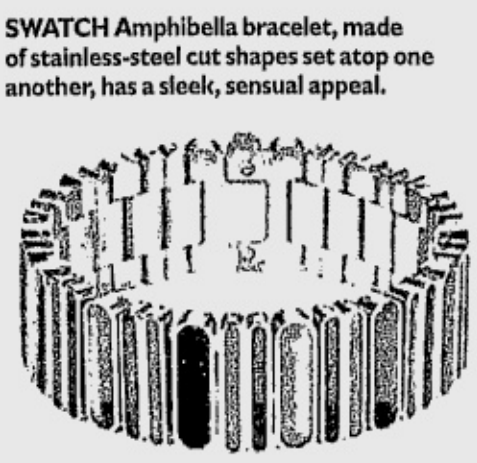
Swatch Bijoux is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Inc. and is available at Gift Gate Glorietta; at Swatch Stores at Glorietta, Podium and Megamall; and at the Swatch Kiosk at Robinsons Place Manila.



BIJOUX Dress Code. Dark or light, this timepiece is perfect for any mood... or dress code.



SWATCH Amphibella bracelet, made of stainless-steel cut shapes set atop one another, has a sleek, sensual appeal.



SWATCH DEFILE. This fitted bracelet is made of dark and light-colored synthetic resin with stainless steel.

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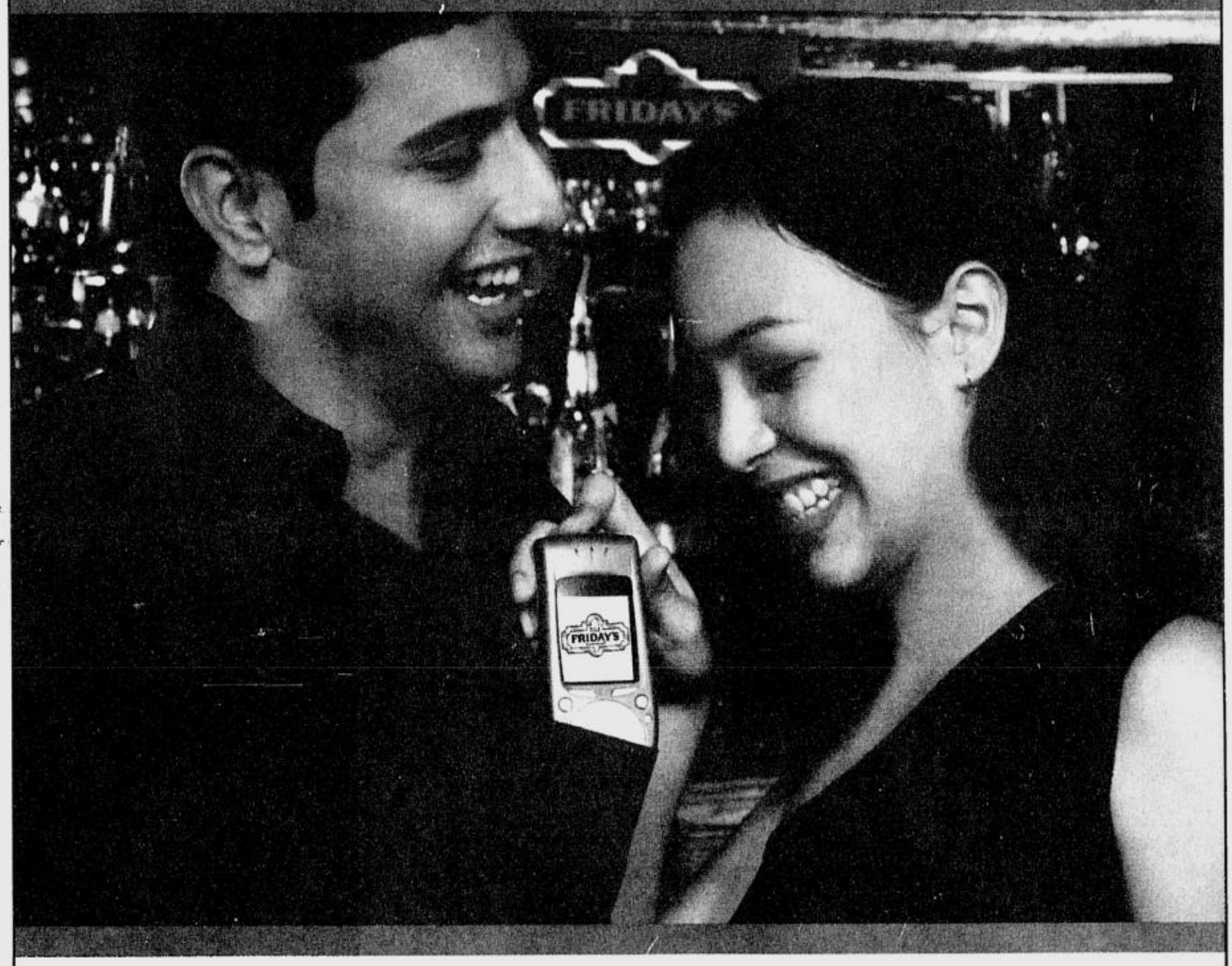

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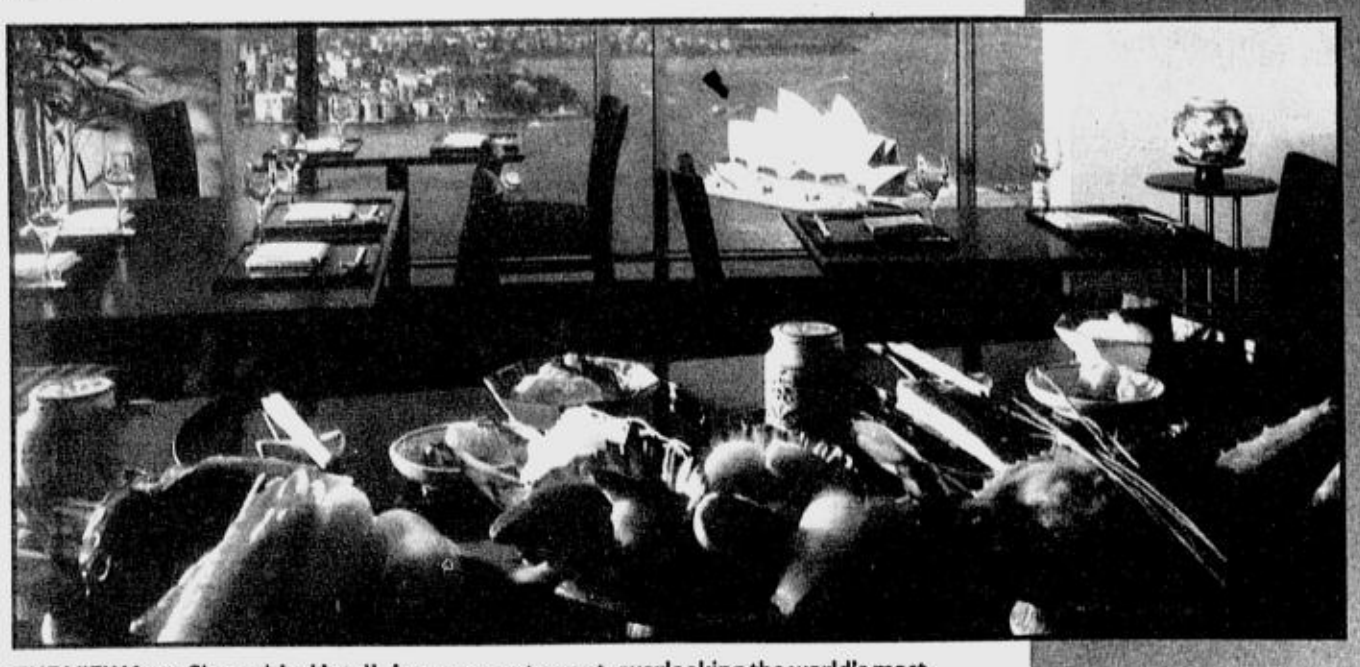
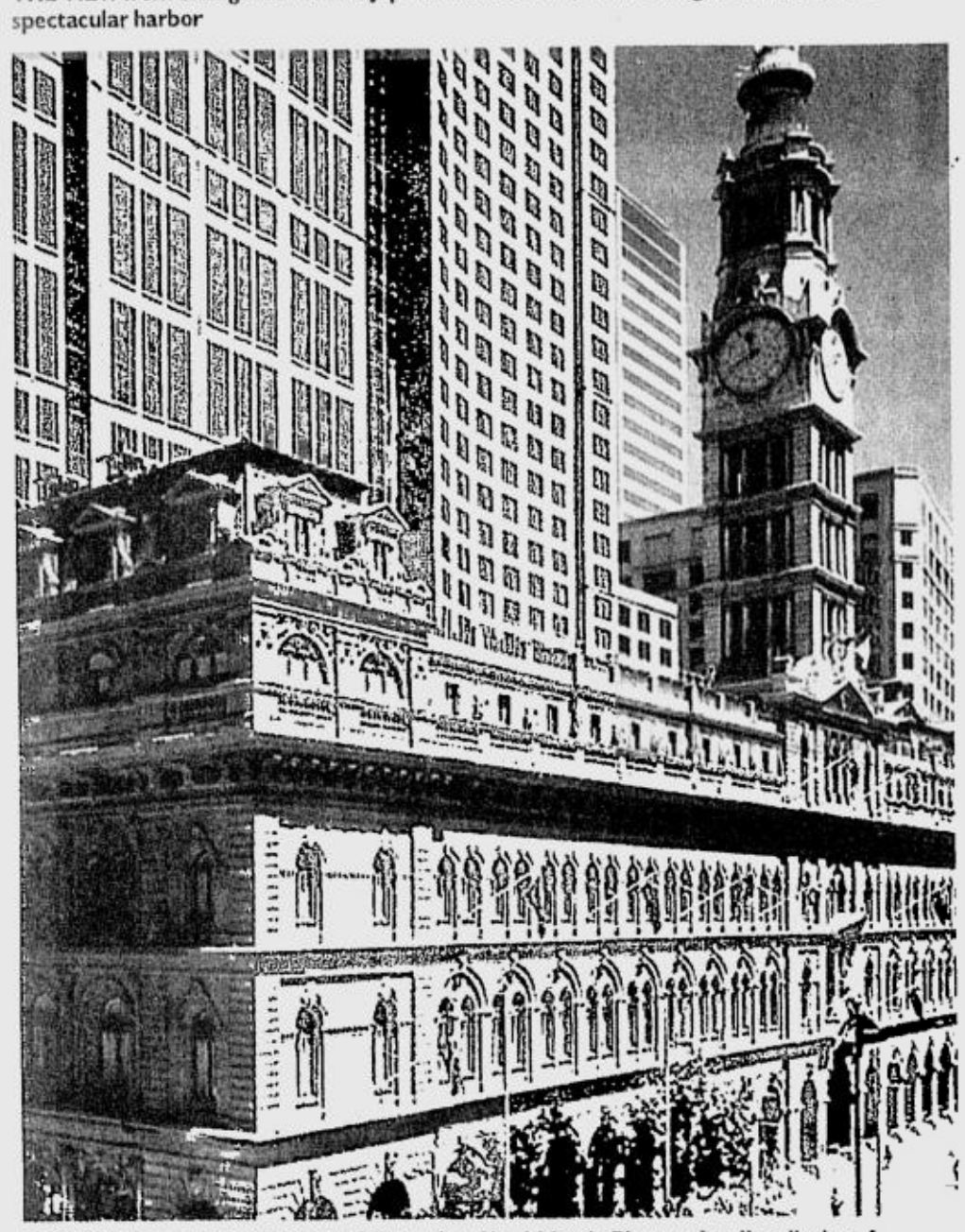
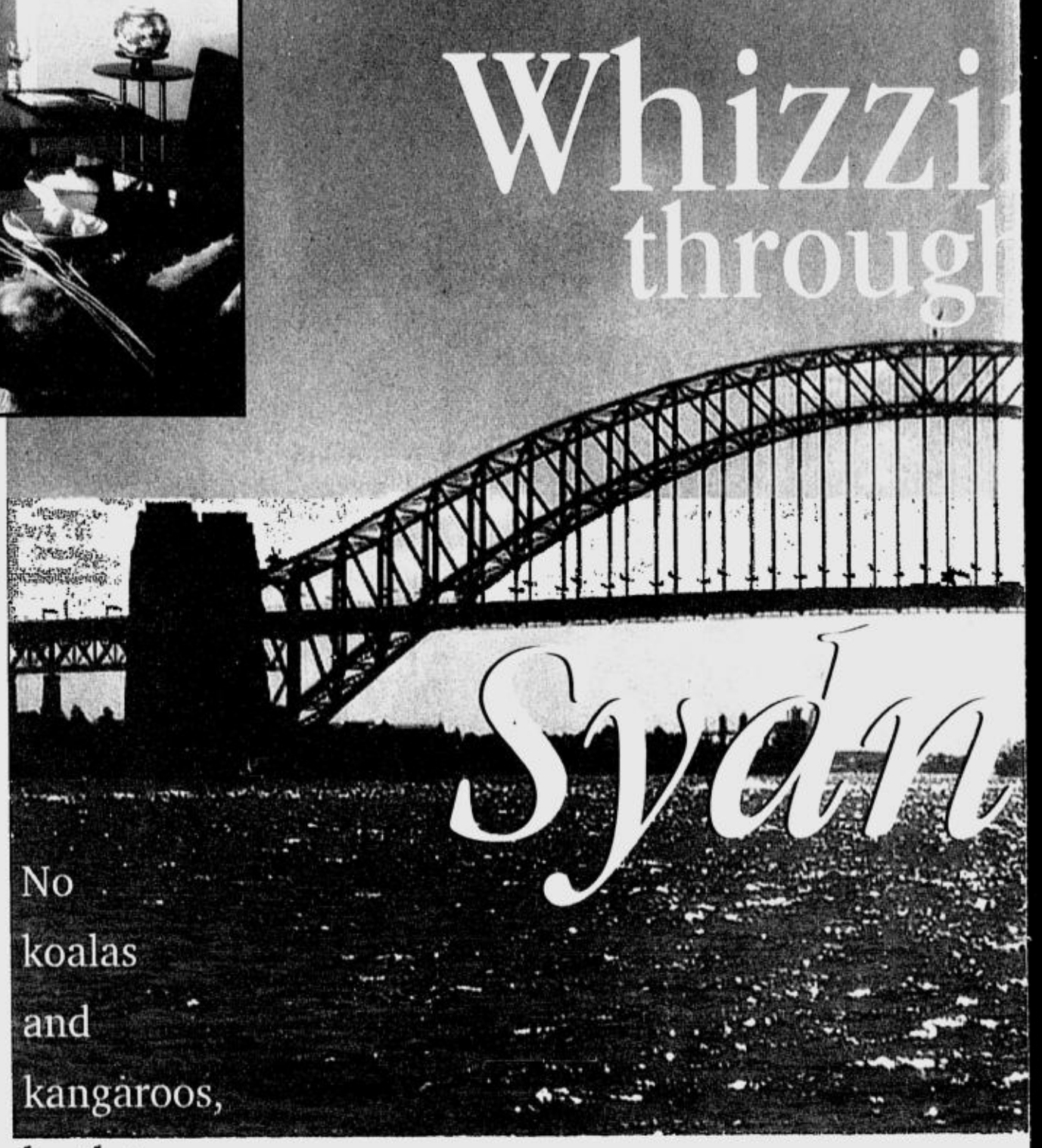


THE VIEW from Shangri-La Hotel's Japanese restaurant, overlooking the world's most spectacular harbor



THE OLD General Post Office Building, a.k.a. No. 1 Martin Place, a dazzling display of structural splendor and historic inheritance

Whizzi through Sydn



No koalas and kangaroos, but lots of quaint Aussie things

By Constantino C. Tejero

"NO kangaroo for today," said Graeme Bashford, marketing and business development manager of Australian Wine Selectors, during a recent familiarization tour sponsored by Shangri-La Hotel and Philippine Airlines. The man was guiding us on a two-hour countryside drive from Sydney to Hunter Valley for a day of wine-tasting.

No koala, either. "Koalas are actually quite common, but you can hardly see them because they stay most of the time at the top of the gum tree," Bashford explained.

But then at daytime a kangaroo may cross the road at a bound, sometimes causing vehicular accidents.

We were still looking for our roo when we reached the valley, Australia's most extensive stretches of vineyards and wineries. At Mount Pleasant, we asked our host if the creatures were not destroying the crops in his 500-acre tract of vineyards.

"I haven't heard of a kangaroo eating grapes," said the befuddled man. "There's no grass around, so they don't often come here to feed. They eat the buds and tendrils of the vines, but it's the birds that are eating the grapes."

The rest of the day was spent on wine-tasting from vineyard to vineyard. While the vintners were lecturing, we could have collapsed to the ground. We slept in pleasant inebriation as we drove back to Sydney in late afternoon.

History and architecture

Sydney, the capital of New South Wales in southeastern Australia, is a city of waterways situated on "one of the finest urban harbors in the world." Australia's best-known city, with a population of over four million, it is considered one of the world's great cities, famed for its natural beauty and buildings.

The architecture of old buildings ranges from the neoclassical to the fanciful, from Art Nouveau to Art Deco, from Victorian pretty to Romanesque grotesque. Most of the colonial brownstone buildings can be found in the area called The Rocks, the city's most historic area, considered the heart and soul of Sydney.

The discovery of Australia by the West occurred somewhere here when James Cook landed on Botany Bay just south of what is now Sydney. The first Aboriginal presence in the continent was found at sites in this region, dated 30,000 BC-15,000 BC.

The earliest settlers from the West also came here, when Arthur Phillip established a penal colony on Sydney Cove in 1788. Transportation of convicts stopped only in 1840.

From this infamous origin, The Rocks rose to become this glamorous place, probably the most cosmopolitan part of the city. This is where our hotel, the Shangri-La, is located, on Cumberland Street, between the iconic Opera House and the historic Harbour Bridge.

The 36-story Shang is one of Sydney's eight five-star hotels (the city has some 30 four-star ones). It has a commanding view of Sydney Cove, the Circular Quay and Sydney Harbour, considered the world's most spectacular harbor.

The morning we arrived, the hotel was fully booked, the rooms still occupied, so that marketing communications director Lesley Wade was in a tizzy, hovering ov
We had to wait a
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Tour and bar-ho

Sydney Opera H
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But we didn't go
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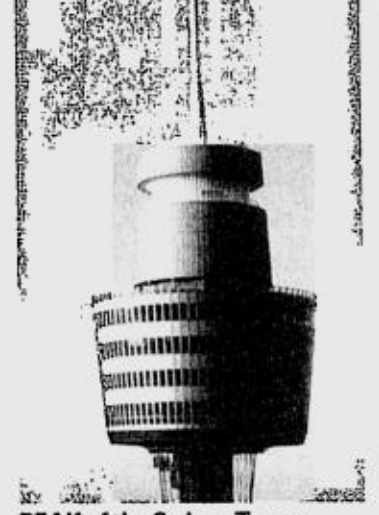

PEAK of the Sydney Tower

DOOR of Mount Pleasant Winery

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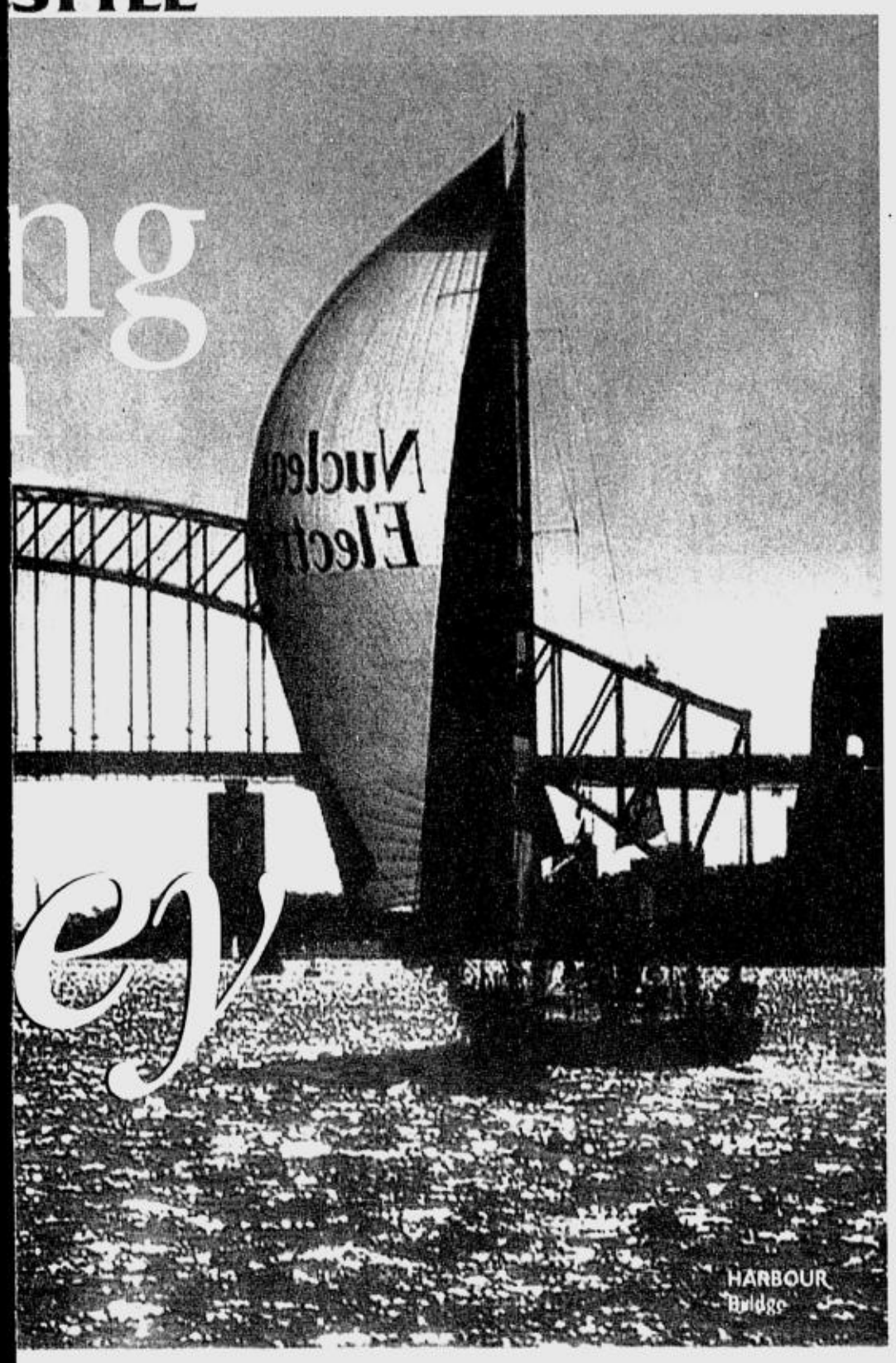
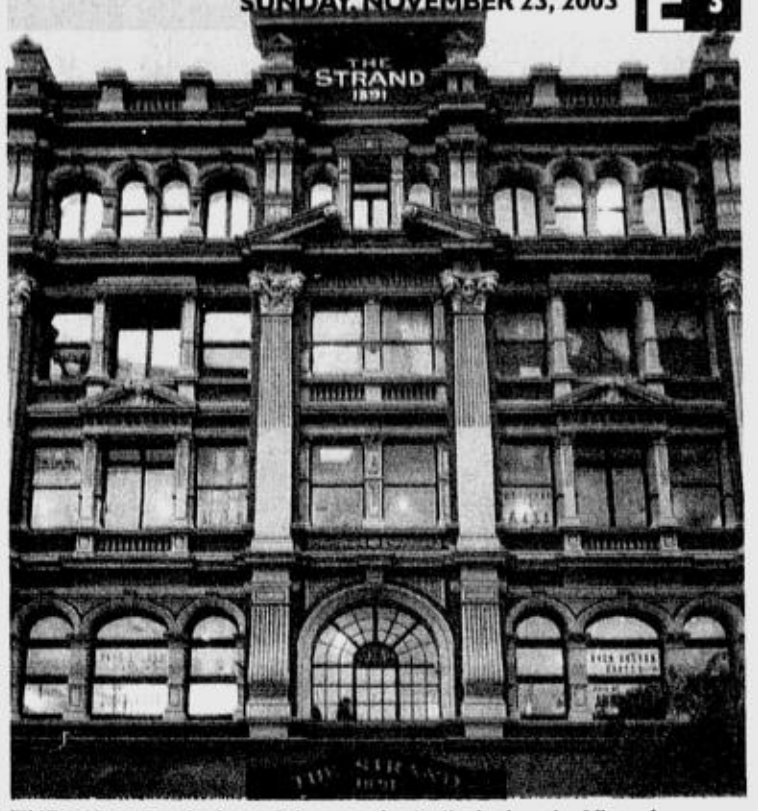


AUSTRALIAN pearls and the magnificently iridescent opal



THE STRAND, the last of the arcades built during the Victorian era in Sydney

head and wonder what new scandal was afoot.

Yet these people have a lovely idiom that can be traced probably to its Aboriginal origin. Even names of banal stuff have a poetic quality.

Certain beers have names such as Outback Lizard, Opal Mountain, Goat Hightail Ale. One brand of white wine is Rosemount Hill of Gold, a Verdelho is named Cockfighter's Ghost, a red is Broken Back, but nothing can beat another red that's called Devil's Fifth Leg.

And there's the sense of humor. A wine boutique has a shelf lined with books by one Philip Rush with such titles: "Australian Poems That Would Dazzle a Dingo," "Australian Poems That Would Stun a Sheep," "Australian Poems That Would Flummox a Farmer," "Australian Poems That Would Boggle a Bull."

And the primitive names have an inherent musicality. As we drove along the scenic Central Coast, we crossed a bridge over Moony Moony Creek, and came upon the Forest of Tranquility in Kurri Kurri.

Asiatics will not really feel homesick in this place, as they've formed colonies of their own. One restaurant is named Emerald Thai, while another announces "Eat-in and Take-away Indian Cuisine."

In fact, one of the most popular shopping places in Sydney—Market City, with its three levels of factory outlets, above Paddy's Markets—is located in the heart of Chinatown.

Character and climate

This is a relatively safe place to live in. You'll hardly see cops either on city streets or open roads.

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WHIZZING/E4

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tamer than our Red Horse; and James Squire Porter, resembles stout, with a deep color of ruby-mahogany and a taste that ranges from coffee-chocolatey to wood marinated in Coke.

Ever reliable, the man also taught us a traditional Aussie drinking song: "Here's to Graeme, he's true-blue/He's a piss pot through and through/He's a bastard, so they say/He tried to go to heaven/But he went the other way/Drink it down, down, down, down!"

Lifestyle and culture

Other major attractions not to be missed by first-timers: the art galleries and museums; Sydney Aquarium, one of the largest and most spectacular in the world; Sydney Olympic Park, epicenter of the 2000 Olympic Games; Queen Victoria Building, known as the Crown Jewel of Sydney, from the Gilded Age of Parisian-style emporiums; Imax Theatre, with the world's biggest movie screen, at over eight stories high; The Strand, the city's prettiest and most historic arcade, a shopping mecca for over a century; Sydney Observatory, Australia's oldest, used to view the southern sky for 140 years, discovering 70,000 stars that couldn't be seen in the northern hemisphere.

All these places are only a tiny fraction of the whole of Sydney. Most of the city is a massive suburban sprawl.

Despite the high cost of living (cab flagdown is Aus $3, an apple for $2 in a fitness center, buffet breakfast for $28.50 in a five-star hotel, reserved ticket to a musical for $88—at P36 to Aus $1), Sydney folk seem to have a free-spirited lifestyle and an easy living.

This is a place known for its gold, pearls and opals, wines and cheeses, fruits and vegetables, milk, beef, seafoods from the Great Barrier Reef. Teeming on the open roads and city streets are Peugeots, Holdens, the ubiquitous Japanese cars.

In a recent Newsweek report, the World Health Organization says obesity rates in Australia have tripled since 1980.

Since many of the comparable items in Sydney shops and boutiques can be had in Manila several times cheaper, we suggest that you shop only for those representative of the island-continent, or stuff rarely found in the Philippines.

These include authentic Aboriginal art, whether paintings or crafts of wood, stone or kangaroo hide. Or bags of pecan and macadamia nuts, bars of eucalyptus soap, canisters of bushland tea, the wide variety of Australian wines, gold, opal.

Opal is especially recommended, as this is one of Australia's most radiant treasures. The place is the largest source of this magnificently iridescent stone, with 95 percent of the world's opals to be found here.

An opal 1-cm thick takes five million years to form. And we say, no one can resist the "brilliantly vivid shades of aqua, crimson, green and orange seemingly bursting out of each stone."

Language and humor

The shops close at 5 p.m., most of the restaurants at 11 p.m.

One setback for the first-time visitor is, of course, the confusion over the English language, whether in pronunciation, enunciation or idiom. You understand what black coffee or espresso is, but when someone describes your cup of steaming brew as "flat" or "short," you turn a baffled face.

When The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Prince Harry was "staying in 16,600-hectare Tookcombilla Station in Queensland, where he'll learn to be a jackaroo," we just had to scratch our

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an beers: Little Creatures, a
Perth, tastes like a slightly bit-
mine; Redback, strong, but

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Whizzing through Sydney

THE SYDNEY Opera House, one of the world's most recognizable structures

From page E2

motorists are reminded by billboards: "Camera Monitors Traffic in This Area," "Merging Traffic, Heavy Fines, Loss of License, $95 Fine," "How Fast Are You Going Now?," "Take a Break Every Two Hours, Stop, Revive, Survive," "Caution: High Wind," "Unmarked Police Cars on Patrol."

Even a Boston Market outlet has this mild threat: "Area Under Electronic Surveillance." With the heavy psychological effect this has on the citizen, who needs the police?

Despite the image from mainstream Australian movies ("Mad Max," "Crocodile Dundee"), someone in our group has described the Aussies as actually "gracious." That is, they're gentler, more welcoming and accommodating than many other Caucasians.

That's enough endorsement that this is a place one can visit again, and again, and again.

It is now rugby season till the end of November, and the place is packed with visitors from all over the world.

As it is in the southern hemisphere, and so the reverse of Europe and America, the city now basks in the spring, the best time to visit. Weather is a bit colder than in Baguio and a bit warmer than in San Francisco.

Of the Sydney Official Guide's Top 5 Areas to Visit, we had only gone to as far as Darling Harbour and The Rocks. We missed Balmain, Paddington and Manly.

Clearly a second visit is in order, for us to honestly say that we have been to Sydney. Why, we hadn't even gone to the suburbs. And we have yet to see a koala, and our kangaroo.

DELEGATES from the Philippine print media amid wine casks at Hunter Valley

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"I DID an interview in California, somebody asked 'What do you think of your new governor (Arnold Schwarzenegger)?' 'Oh, I think it's very Filipino.'" PHOTOS: RUDY ESPERAS

Welcome back to the jungle, Jessica!

JESSICA Hagedorn is fair, has high cheekbones and a patrician nose, and, on her recent Manila visit, sports auburn-dyed cropped hair. In black punk shirt, faded denim jacket and *batik* capri pants, the 54-year-old Fil-Am writer looks eccentric, but otherwise melds with the typical multicultural, multiambient Pinoy mall crowd at the Shangri-La Plaza where she meets the Playtime staff and autographs copies of her newest novel, "The Dream Jungle," at the National Book Store.

PLAYTIME
By the Staff

In the United States, people express surprise upon learning she's Filipino. The surprise often causes her chagrin (but in this interview, laughter).

Hagedorn—who has Spanish, French, Chinese and Filipino blood—revels in the hybridity afforded by her Filipino roots. The crazy mosaic is evident in her preoccupations—she's a poet, performance artist, musician and filmmaker—and in her fiction, the critically acclaimed "Dogeaters" (1990, Pantheon Press), "Gangster of Love", (1996, Houghton Mifflin/ Penguin) and "Dream Jungle" (2003, Viking/ Penguin), which has earned rave reviews from the New York Times, Washington Post and Publisher's Weekly.

Before her Manila visit, Hagedorn was doing a book tour for "Jungle." The new work shows Hagedorn's narrative flair, gift for characterization, and skillful appropriation of contemporary motifs for symbolism and postcolonial insights.

If in "Dogeaters" she painted the distortions of Philippine reality under the Marcos dictatorship, in "Jungle" she refers to two seminal events in the 1970s: the discovery of the purported stone-age Tasaday cave dwellers and the shooting here of Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now."

The fictional allusions to sociocultural events, Hollywood mythmaking and a cornucopia of striking trivia are vintage Hagedorn. In 1996, Ishmael Reed described Hagedorn's works as "the kind of novels that will be written in the next century" and "They make the typical American novel look gray."

Not surprisingly for someone who grew up in Manila and left the country at 14 (an uprooting that left an indelibly sad, even traumatic, impression on her), Hagedorn has never really stopped writing about the Philippines. Which means she has never really left it.

Are book tours fun?

They're work. Sure, they could be fun. You do this all day, but they give you one rest day. I try to just do it.

Is it a different city every day?

It depends. Sometimes, in San Francisco I had [stayed] three days because there were a lot of events and I grew up there. It's like another hometown for me, so there where a lot of requests. In LA, I had two, and others one night each.

You had a band. Who's this author who has a group that goes with her on book tours? Barbara Kingsolver? Maybe they should ask you to revive your band.

They're probably not as good as my band, The Gangster Choir. (Laughter)

You're the one who put it together?

Yeah.

How old were you then?

Probably in my late 20s, and it went on for three years.

What type of music did your band play?

It was a mixture. We did rock and we did world music, and New Wave that was around in the '80s. We were very loud.

Were the members Pinoy or mixed?

Mixed.

Where did you acquire your penchant for music?

I'm a Filipino. I love music.

Was it also an offshoot of the poetry?

Yes, maybe the spoken word. People doing what they're doing is accepted now. We were early, but we were much more musical, you know. We were not just standing there. We were actually singing. Sometimes I would just stand and say something, but I mixed it. I'm a poet. Poetry is the basis for the music. But I love music.

You did spoken word then?

Yup, they just called it poetry before the spoken word thing. I think it's because of rap music, word-driven.

Are your two daughters writing?

Yeah, the younger one loves to write. I just let them explore.

Is that basically what your mom did to you?

She was very encouraging. She was very artistic herself. When I wanted to explore all kinds of art, she always believed in it. If I wanted to study dancing... she was like "Okay, try it, try it, whatever." I was very lucky.

How often do you come back?

The last time I was back was 2001. But when my parents and my brothers were around, I would come all the time. Every couple of years, I'd come. Now my parents have passed away, my older brother moved to Hawaii, and my middle brother died. There's really less and less reason for me to come unless it is work-related, like when I did research for this novel. I came back in 2001 because I had to. I went to Mindanao.

You don't look Filipino. Are you often asked if you really are Filipino?

Yes. (Laughs)

Do your daughters speak Tagalog?

No, they don't speak Tagalog. They're New Yorkers, but they'll pick it up. They know how to swear. (Laughter) When I brought my older daughter here when she was little, she picked it up. She understood what people were talking about.

Is 14 a good age to be uprooted? Is there ever a good age? At 14, were your roots and memory strong enough to sustain it? Was there a lot of the Philippines in you already?

I think so. I was not uprooted in a happy way. My parents were separated; it wasn't my choice. Fourteen is old, you're not a little kid. I came back a lot. How could you forget that? You'll never forget. Your childhood memories are always with you. It's too important.

Have your relatives here read your novels?

I have no idea. (Laughter) My immediate family, yes, but we're talking about all the others.

I think it will be an intense preoccupation among them to ask, "Who's this, who's that?"

Of course, it's hard having a writer in the family.

Have you based any of your characters on actual relatives?

That's for you to figure out. .. I can't answer your question because I respect my family. I just feel like it's more fun if you figure it out. It's hard enough for them. (Laughter)

How autobiographical is "Dogeaters"?

I think every writer will tell you that in some parts of his book, even if it's the most remote stuff he's writing about, he will use persona stuff... Writers have to. I use a lot of

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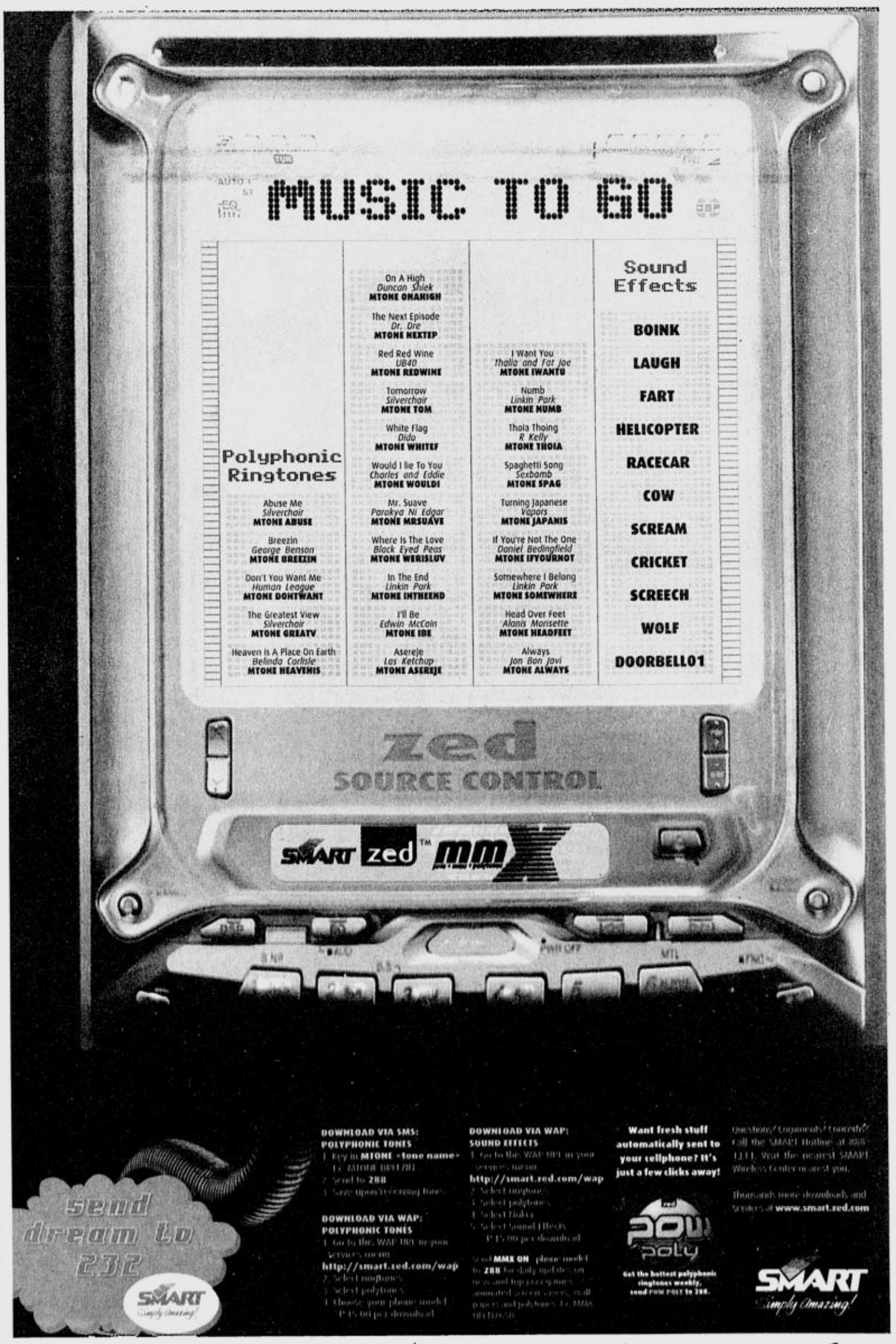

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Welcome back to the jungle, Jessica!

From page F1

my own life, but I also use a lot of inventions, a lot of historical and fictionalized events. I mix it, that's what I did in that novel and in this one ["Dream Jungle"] where people know that in the '70s there was this tribe. But I am not doing a non-fiction book and I don't have to stick to the facts, but I was inspired by the actual events and by "Apocalypse Now." Of course, I'm using a lot of things that are real—"Oh, this must be Marlon Brando"—but I'm free to make a character sympathetic or unsympathetic if I want to. That's why I chose to write fiction because you can move around and use what you know and you can also invent. I can't answer you like, say, 50 percent of it or 20, because it is different. I don't think I can make half of it based on me. It's more of what I need to use.

What are the comments of US Filipinos on your books?

The ones I meet are really fans of the works. They won't come if they hate me. Nobody does that. (Laughter) People have so much to do there. If they hate what you do, they won't buy your book and show up in the bookstore just to harass you. The ones who come do because they are interested.

How do Filipinos react to the title "Dogeaters"?

They ask, "Why did you use that title, could you change it now?" "We like your book but we don't want the title." I'm sorry, but I won't change it.

Did you have to defend the title?

In the beginning, yeah. I choose to defend what I want to defend. Otherwise, I just say I'm sorry you feel like you do. I'm not gonna argue with anybody. The book is out, you should read it and make your judgment. I can't convince you. It's a lose-lose situation, you can't win so why even get into a big debate?

I did tell this one wonderful lady in

Because we know what you want,
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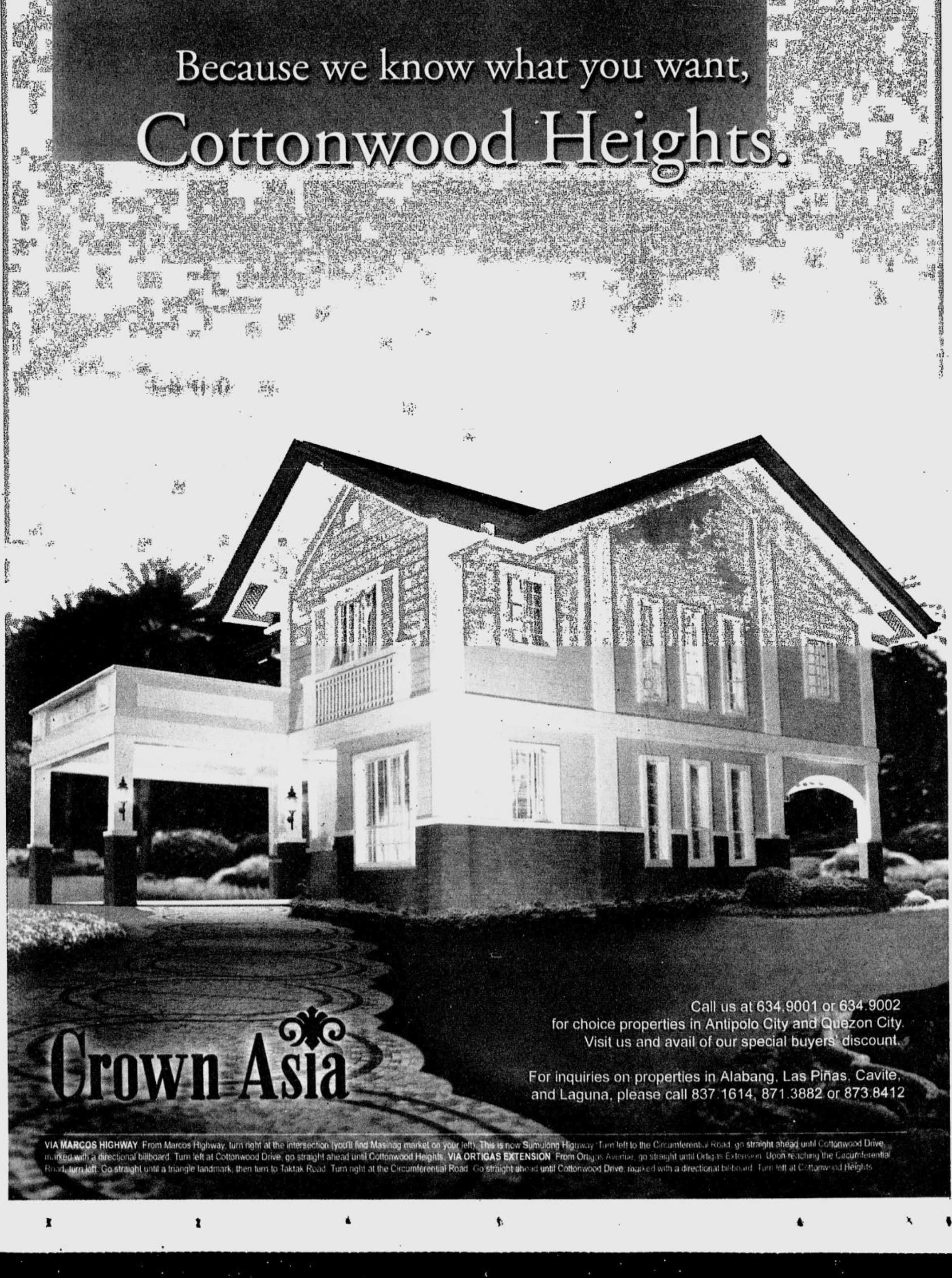

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'Nobody wanted to publish Dogeaters. We were turned down by every publishing house. They said: a) It wasn't written as a conventional novel; and b) Who cares about the Philippines?'

mean you have to love everybody's work, but you have to care.

I have edited a fiction anthology of Asian-American writers. The new one that's coming out in March, "Charlie Chan Is Dead, Volume II," has many Filipino expat writers. Ben Santos is still in it, and a lot of younger ones like Eric Gamalinda, who is living and teaching in New York, Gina Apostol... they are Filipino writers but they now live there. They are strong writers but are not yet known, but that doesn't mean they're not gonna be.

I think Eric is a great writer. I hope he has a novel [that] somebody picks up because the story that I chose for the anthology is incredible. I told him, you should really develop this into a novel.

Would you mind if somebody like Oprah chooses your book for her book club?

Nobody minds that. (Laughter) But I don't sit around thinking about it, but, of course, anybody would love it. She has such media power, and everybody's "Oprah's doing it, I'm doing it."

We'll e-mail her show to feature Asian-American writers.

But it's really her choice.

Can you give us an idea of the struggle you had in order to break into the mainstream, especially with "Dogeaters"?

Nobody wanted to publish it. We were turned down by everybody and there were like three houses left. They said: a) It wasn't written as a conventional novel; and b) Who cares about the Philippines?

Some of the editors wouldn't say it that way to my agent, but they imply, "Oh, it's a small market," and I knew that was stupid. I said, "These people are ignorant, because it's more than that. The subject is not just about the Philippines but conflict, and bigger than that." I knew they were just blind and short-sighted.

It was so discouraging, but my agent was very loyal and great, he just said "Okay, I wouldn't even call you, there are only three left." I said, "I don't even want to hear one more no, just call me if anybody is interested." And lo and behold this wonderful editor at Pantheon, which is part of Random House, got it. She understood what I was trying to do.

What did you do after you learned it would be published?

I cried. (Laughter)

When was this?

1988. Knowing that the book was sold, I came back to the Philippines, stayed for four months with my daughter, did another draft here and sent it back. My editor was already saying to me, "Stop rewriting!" (Laughter) But I had many more things I wanted to say.

Writer's disease?

Yeah. They tell me, "Enough, write another book." I said okay, I have to end this. This is it.

Were you surprised by the reception?

Truth is I was just happy that it was gonna be published. I thought, okay, five people would read it but at least there's a book. I was shocked, and it was a wonderful revenge.

Who were your co-nominees in the National Book Awards?

That was a great year. You know why? Because since then it hasn't been as diverse. There was actually... a Chilean-American writer, Elena Castedo, she has a book called "Paradise." A very ancient writer named... I can't remember... who is of Spanish descent but had been working in

WELCOME/ F4

Hawaii—she had the book but she hadn't read it yet—I told her, read it and you'll understand. I don't want you to think that I don't care about your feelings but... she was great. I paid attention to her because she was 90 years old and she cared enough to talk to me. But I'm not gonna explain blah-blah to everybody because I'll be like a neurotic if I do that.

What about the reading or non-reading habits of Pinoys? You have a band, you played music, that's a manifestation of the orality of Pinoy culture, and Pinoys are hardly book readers.

Maybe because books are expensive. (Laughter)

But Pinoys in the US buy your books. Who else buys Jessica Hagedorn books?

I have a really mixed audience, and my books are studied by Fil-Ams. They are very involved in Philippine studies in the universities. They read. You have a great literature culture here. Maybe it's just hard for them to afford stuff. Certainly the people I know here read and will get a book if they have to. They'll do everything they can to get a book.

When I come here to visit, I bring books as gifts. That's what I feel what I can do because it doesn't cost as much for me over there, and I bring a lot of books. People here are very verbal, very eloquent. That comes from a writing culture, too, a poetic culture. I beg to differ. I think they would read if they could.

What kind of books do you read?

I read everything. (Laughs)

What are you reading right now?

I'm reading the Gabriel Garcia Marquez memoirs, Part I. It's so big and expensive. It's as big as this [demonstrates] and it's only part one! It's beautiful. He's 75 years old and this is only Part I! It would cost like P5 million here. (Laughs) I hope the paperback comes out.

Are you influenced by the Latin-American writers?

Yeah.

What about Filipino writers?

I love Ben Santos. He's my favorite.

Which book?

"Scent of Apples." I have all of his novels. I like all of them. I also love NVM [Gonzales]. I actually love "The Man Who (Thought He) Looked Like Robert Taylor." It's my actual favorite.

Is it different when you read novels by Filipino authors when you're away from home?

It makes me remember a lot of stuff. I think so.

How about poetry written in Filipino?

No, I don't trust myself, but I love the Fil-Am poets. I want to write in Taglish to appreciate that. It's a question of my own stability with the language.

"Dogeaters" was nominated for the National Book Awards. What do you think is the reason only a few Filipino writers have penetrated the American literary mainstream, unlike Amy Tan, Maxine Hong Kingston or Gus Lee?

I don't know. I think it's a question [that should be asked] of someone like [Carlos] Bulosan or Ben Santos, [both of whom] are available in the US and who are such great writers. I really don't know... I'm not the right person to ask, because I think they are as good as...

It's always an uphill battle, even for me. It's a struggle, because I'm also considered a literary writer. Literary fiction—it's "artys-fartsy." I'm not writing what they call "supermarket fiction," nor do I want to. Correct? There's a whole marketing thing with literary writers as opposed to commercial writers. They are not really promoting you as much as they would Tom Clancy. I mean, Amy Tan is a commercial writer.

So is Maxine Hong Kingston?

No. She's not. She's a real forerunner. Chinese in America are huge. They're big. Their history with America is very long and involved. I think she's the first... I really respect her, she doesn't write commercial fiction.

Does she still write?

Yes, she just came out with a book, an anti-war nonfiction called "The Fifth Book Peace." It has all the work with Vietnam veterans, and is trying to work toward peace. She's a Buddhist. She's touring, and the book came out at the same time as mine, so she's probably still touring. I've known her for many years. She's very supportive of younger writers, so I'm considered a young writer. (Laughs)

Is there a society of Asian-American writers?

No. We're just close to each other because we have to be. You have to support your fellow writers. If we don't promote each other's work, no one will do it for us. I care about other and younger writers, maybe I can help one or two. That's how we do it, it's not like we have a club of Asian-American writers. We just have to know each other to help each other out. It doesn't

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Welcome back to the jungle, Jessica!

From page F3

America forever and had written a very obscure novel. He was so old he was like, [mimics author] "I'm not coming to the ceremony." (Laughter)

There were a lot of non-Americans and they made a big deal out of that. There were Joyce Carol Oates and an African-American Charles Johnson, who won. Everybody else came from somewhere else. It was great. And there's one more, the fifth person I can't remember, who was not born in the US either.

Everybody was happy for each other because we were a bunch of odd people. That doesn't happen much. It depends on the judges, it's a different set of judges every year.

What's your writing process like? Do you write at night? Does it have to be quiet?

I used to write at night, but when my children were born, I had to switch. I now write in the day. Now, the eldest is in college, [while] my 12-year-old daughter would not come in and bother me. She's independent.

Does it have to be quiet?

Even if they don't come in the little room, I feel there's people in the house, they need me! (Laughter) It's a day thing now. It's not easy because that's when the phone rings and stuff, but I try to ignore it. There are other things to do but I make myself write for at least a few hours in the morning. Even if it's lousy, I write. I force it.

Did you start "Dogeaters" before the kids?

No, because my daughter was born in '83.

How did motherhood affect your writing?

It was hard, like [demonstrates cradling a baby in an arm and writing with the other hand]. (Laughter) And this was before I had a computer! The rewriting was cut-and-paste—with glue!

Good thing you didn't give it up and make motherhood an excuse.

I want to write. Even if the house is on fire I would still write. (Laughter)

Who was the inspiration behind Rocky Rivera of "The Gangster of Love"?

A little of myself, my eldest daughter, a friend.

Does your publisher give you a deadline? Do they have a timetable for you, like every year you should finish a book?

It depends on the contract. I have a two-book contract with Penguin. Deadlines are good because if you don't have one, it could go on for 20 years. (Laughs) Deadlines are healthy, and if I need more time, which I often do because I like to rewrite... It's important when I feel something is not finished and they give extensions. They're pretty good about that. With this novel, it's like seven years. They said, "Okay, I think it's time. Could you make a final draft?" (Laughter)

How much of the original is left after your rewrite?

All of it is the same, the point of view and the characters are the same. I just develop them more and it drives my editors crazy because I am shifting. There are four main characters for this book, for example. The characters were mingling from the very beginning. It was very confusing. When I broke it up into sections, they each took center stage, and it is more helpful for the readers. And it took many rewritings to get to that point. They each have to have their moments alone rather than from the beginning they are all there already and you don't know how they met. They were all there at the start, it's just that I kept shifting like, should I begin with this guy or this little girl? I move that around and my editors are like, "Decide!"

The American movie that comes to the Philippines, it used to be there from the beginning and now it has its own section, and I think that's better. It deserves its moment. That has to come out from my head. I don't plan that, and it takes time. But the original concepts were all there. It wasn't like, this is not the same book. The story is the same, it's how I told it that changed.

Do you read what you write aloud?

Sometimes, just to hear how it sounds like. Usually dialogues, do people really talk like this? I think that's really valuable.

How do you adjust your style, considering that you write for an American audience which is very unfamiliar with the Philippines?

I want to make it acceptable to everyone but I don't want to dumb it down. There are some Tagalog words in here, but I don't stop and explain everything.

Like *merienda*?

Yeah, the *merienda*. She never explained *merienda* [mimics]. (Laughs) Figure it out, it's a Spanish word, actually.

The critics might have complained because they thought you should have translated everything. Provide a glossary! (Laughter)

For a novel, no. (Laughs). I decided to contextualize it somehow and with what the characters say, you would understand. If I fail, I fail. I try to do it like that, sneak it in so I'm not explaining everything. I think you'll be bored to death if I do.

Your favorite novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez is the No. 1 magic realist. Are you a magic realist?

Not really. He probably would say he's tired of that term himself cause he's a journalist. He's a realist. I think it's just that people love him so much that they think it's magic. I think we have so much of the same elements. I'm not trying to do magic realism now. There are moments I think that I probably feel like that especially in this book, but I wasn't striving for that.

But you encounter certain reactions especially from the mainstream audience, like, did this really happen? This plot seems to be fantastic. The way present audiences would react to Gabriel Garcia Marquez's.

HAGEDORN signing books at the launch of "Dream Jungle" at National Book Store

Sometimes. Because I do a lot of Q and As during my tour and sometimes people would say, "Wow! You know... blah, blah, blah," but they are curious in a healthy way. The people who are interested in these books know enough. They wouldn't be there anyway [if they're not]. They already know enough about the culture or researched enough on their own that they know my style. With this book, everybody's familiar with "Apocalypse Now" and they know it happened. It's a familiar story; it was a movie filmed in the Philippines.

The younger people come because they're curious and don't know it. It happened long enough ago, some even before they were born. These are college kids. They're like, Oh, the Vietnam War... It's so long ago for them and they know nothing about it so I have to explain it to the younger people. The older ones say, yeah, I remember that. I try to give a little background.

Can we ask lifestyle questions? What's you favorite Filipino food?

Laing.

Are you Bicolano?

No, but it's hot. I love chilies.

Do you know how to cook it?

I just have a great recipe.

You have *gabi* leaves there in the States?

In Chinatown.

You have to use fresh coconuts.

Oh, really, it has to be fresh? Oh no! (Laughter) They have fresh coconuts there in the market, but how do I hack it? In my apartment? (Laughter)

You should have it while you're in the Philippines.

I have been eating like a little pig. (Laughs)

What else aside from *laing*?

Kare-kare.

With *bagoong*?

I love *bagoong*. You could buy it there.

Can you cook it there? Don't the neighbors complain?

Not my neighbors. My neighbors are cool. They don't care. I don't really cook but I'll wash the dishes for you. (Laughter) I love green mango and *bagoong* which they sell on the boulevard now. Roxas Boulevard. The baywalk. Street foods.

Do the children have a taste for Pinoy food?

Sure.

How about *balut*?

You can't get *balut* there and I don't think [they'll eat it] once I explain what it is. Hard enough, they don't even like eggs. They're not big egg eaters. I can't say this is a duck embryo, it's good for you.

How about your home? How is it done?

It looks like a church. I have every *santo*. (Laughter) It's hilarious.

What do your friends say when they go to your house?

They love it. I have things from Mexico. I love beautiful woven things. I have a lot of art. I collect [works of] Filipino artists, too, those that I can afford, and Mexican art. I think they're very close. I have crucifixes from Mexico and here. I like old things. My friends appreciate it. I don't have friends who don't appreciate the stuff. (Laughter) They're not my friends [if they don't]. Why hang around people who don't? (Laughter)

Do your bracelets mean anything?

They were made by a friend, a Filipina who collects all kinds of beads. Some are from Baguio, Africa, Nepal. She restrings them when she's bored and she gives them to me. (Laughter) What other lifestyle questions? I'm a Gemini. (laughter) I'm really divided, and that's okay! I get all points of views.

How do you view the fact that the Marcoses are back?

Well, you know it's not up to me to say. I don't live or vote here. It's not for me to make speculations about that thing... but people have short memory. Look at the States, they voted for Bush Jr. Everybody forgot about his father and the war in Iraq, the Gulf War. It's funny. People have short memory, and now we have a movie star governor in California. It's so Filipino.

We might have a movie-star president here again.

I know. (laughter) I mean, we might, too. (Laughter)

We are so American.

No. They're so Filipino. (Laughter) I did an interview in California, somebody asked, "What do you think of your new governor?" "Oh, I think it's very Filipino." "Are you surprised?" "I'm not surprised." (laughter) After Manila, nothing surprises me.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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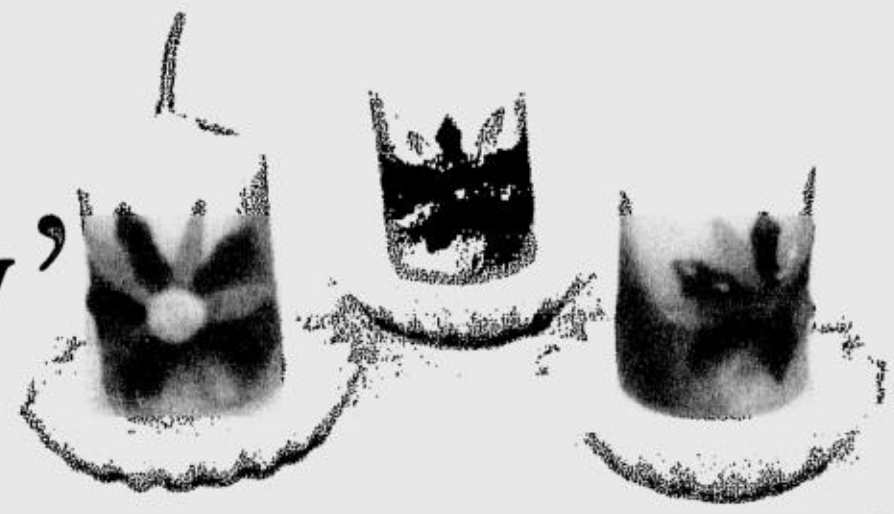
"WE chose [to make] candles because they're for all occasions, all genders, all religious orientations...," says Sr. Ma. Asuncion "Cho" Borromeo, FMM.

'Income is only secondary'

The nuns of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Pandacan are leading the way toward service-oriented livelihood programs



KAPITBAHAYAN'S Candles will be sold in the Christmas bazaar at the Makati Sports Club on Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14. For advance orders, call 5633070.

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IN THESE increasingly covetous times, things don't budge without money. A corresponding amount is required to elicit even the slightest twitch in many people.

But there are always welcome exceptions.

When the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Pandacan stopped receiving their allowance from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for their charity projects, the nuns had no choice but to get by on their own. Without financial backing, they naturally found it hard to carry out all their programs.

Sr. Ma. Asuncion "Cho" Borromeo, FMM, who's in charge of retreat work, had to appeal to the group attending one of her Bible classes. Help came in the form of some cash amount pooled together by three private individuals.

This was early last year.

One of the donors, a woman involved in the garments trade, suggested putting up a livelihood project to meet the economic component of the nuns' other programs.

That's how the sisters' candle-making project started.

Christian formation

"Our main aim is Christian formation through the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC)," explained Sister Cho, "but we also need an economic component."

The sisters first brought together families from a depressed area in Pandacan in 1998 to form Kapitbahayan. The members, a core group of 10 women, were given catechetical training and, guided by the "pay forward" principle, were each made in charge of 10 families.

"The spiritual and moral formation they get from us, they pass on to others," Sister Cho said.

"Every parish has a BEC, and each BEC has a main point of entry. Ours is health care," she added.

Thus, the Kapitbahayan women were also taught skills in basic health care. They were trained in the sciences of acupuncture, reflexology and herbal medicine by Sr. Gloria Coquia, FMM, who is a registered nurse.

Of the core group, only eight of the women have remained active as community health workers, all skilled at performing therapeutic massages.

Word of mouth

These eight women were then taught the process of candle-making. The two-day lessons were given free by the Cottage Industry Technical Center (CITC).

INCOME/ G2

WHILE the women make candles (above), the men of Kapitbahayan do their bit with air-con and refrigerator cleaning and repair services for homes and offices.

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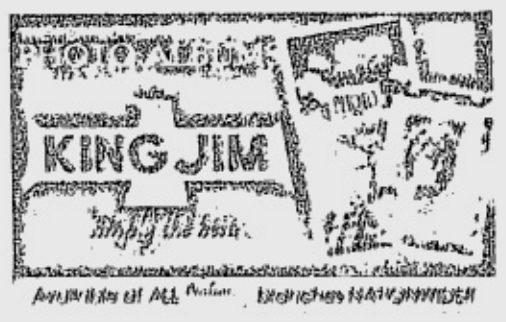

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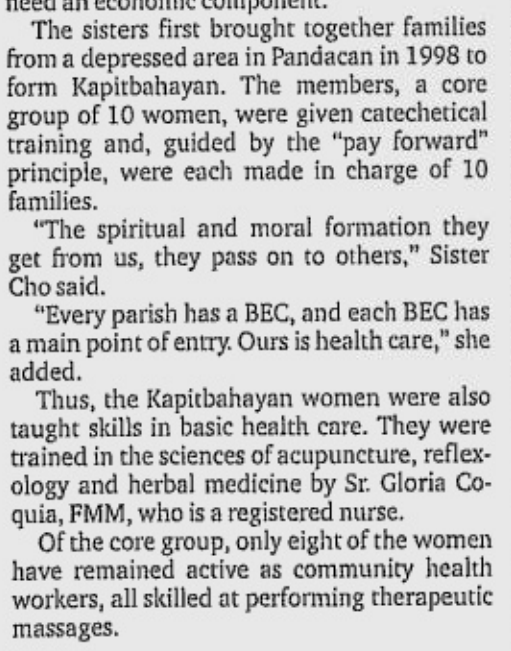
INCOME/ G2



WHILE the women make candles (above), the men of Kapitbahayan do their bit with air-con and refrigerator cleaning and repair services for homes and offices.

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'Income is only secondary'

LABOR OF LOVE. Without expecting compensation, this woman puts her heart into her work.

From page G1

The sisters' candle-making operations are confined at the St. Clare Convent on Beata Street in Pandacan. It is a modest two-building affair enclosed by a high concrete fence.

The old two-story edifice serves as quarters for the six nuns who run the convent. The smaller structure at the back houses the clinic and the display-cum-work area for candle-making.

A small shed began construction recently for their herbal medicine project, with the help of CITC.

After the CITC training, Sr. Enriqueta Agramon, FMM, worked to keep the project self-sufficient. With books given by their benefactor as guides, she led the women to create their own collection of designs, which has expanded to include special-occasion motifs.

But, while Sister Gloria's alternative medicine clinic is consistently busy, with 15-20 patients on clinic days, Kapitbahayan's Candles is still struggling to survive infancy.

Marketing has relied mainly on word of mouth, said Sister Enri, who heads the venture. Clients are mostly friends of the project's benefactors.

While clinic days are on Mondays and Thursdays, the rest of the week, except Sunday, is spent making the candles. (Sunday is free dental clinic day, with volunteer-graduates from the University of the East College of Dentistry.)

"We started *wala silang* compensation at all," said Sister Enri, who explained that clinic and candle-making tasks are done on rotation among the women depending on the volume of orders.

"*Pinaintindi sa kanila na* there's not going to be a salary... It's an ongoing formation so *iba na ang* attitude *nila* [*pagdating sa pera*]. *Iba na ang kanilang pananaw.*"

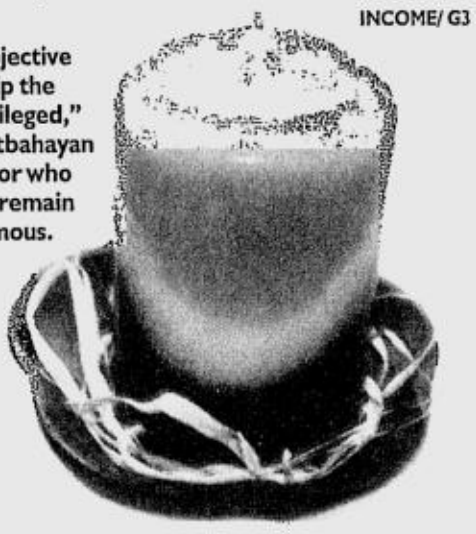
Orders are not regular, she said, but now the women get from P75-P125/day with one free meal.

One time, after a big order, the women were rewarded P3,000 for a month's labor.

"*Naku, parang hindi nila mabilang*!" she laughed. "But they have learned the value of service and sharing. Even if they don't get anything, it's okay with them. We understand that they need money because they have families, *pero iba na silang mag-isip*. They're not really here for the income."

INCOME/ G3

"OUR objective is to help the underprivileged," says a Kapitbahayan benefactor who wants to remain anonymous.



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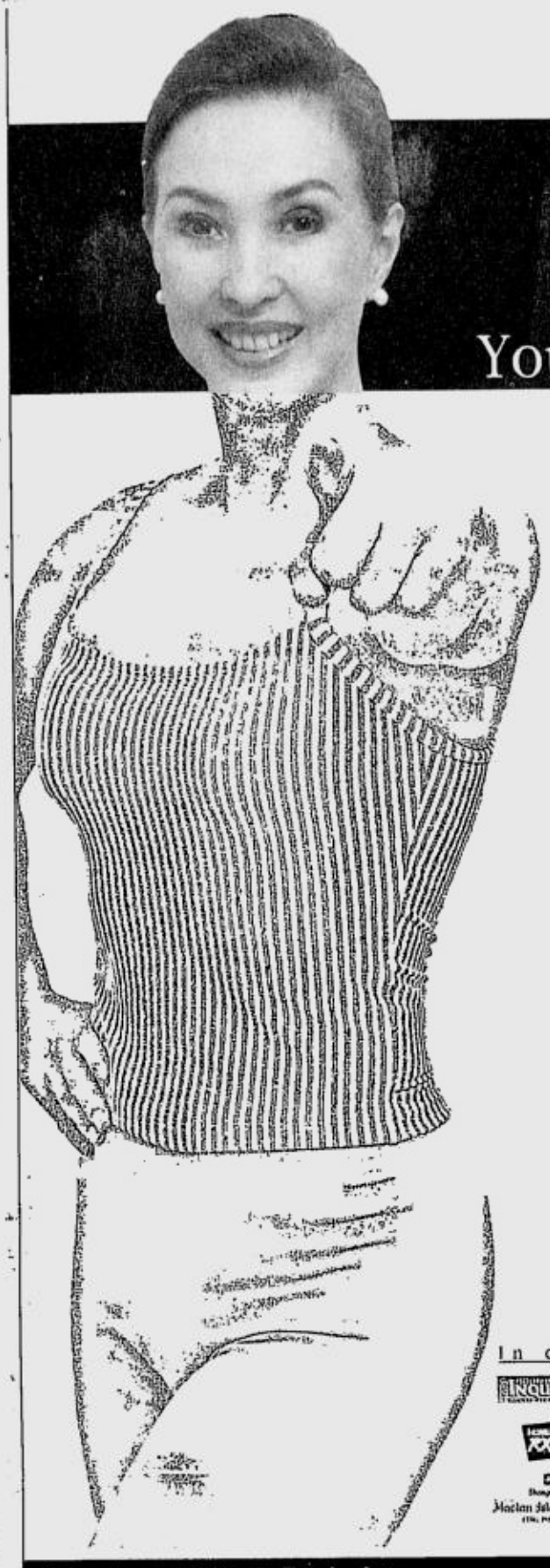

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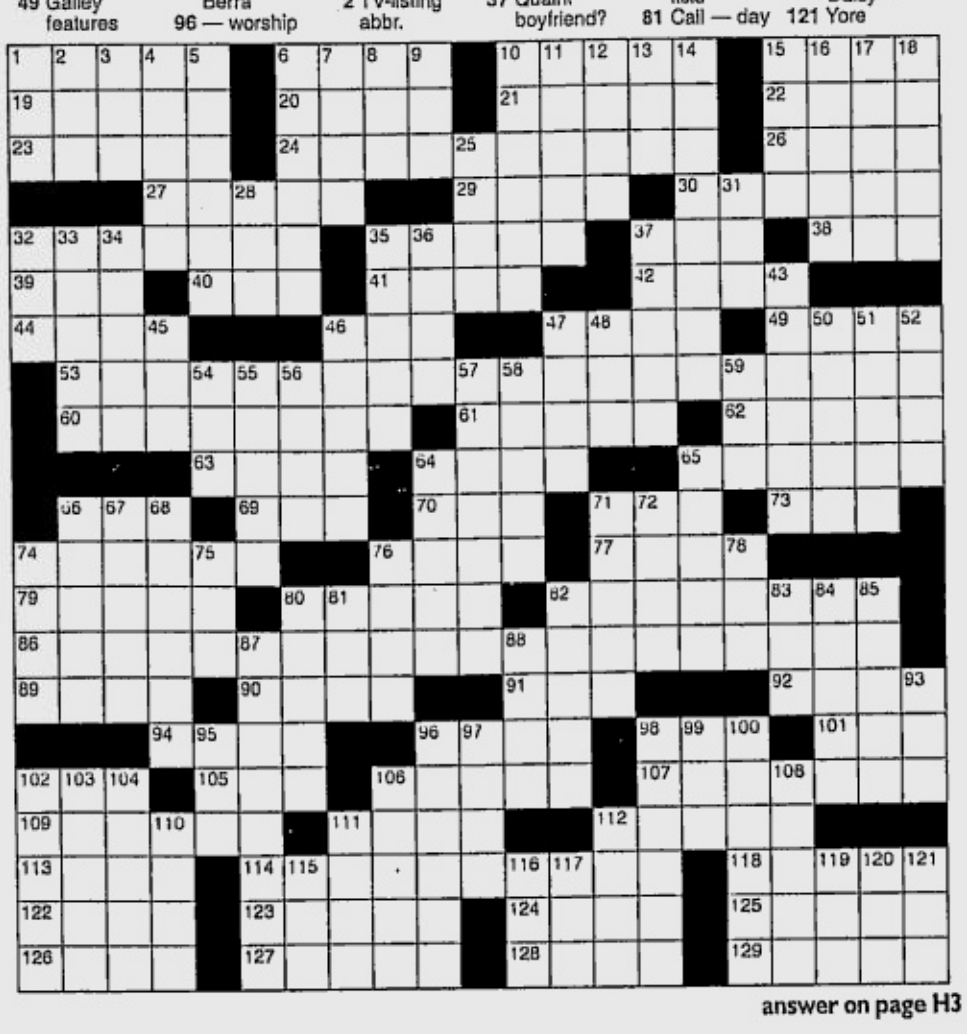
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

BELLY LAUGH

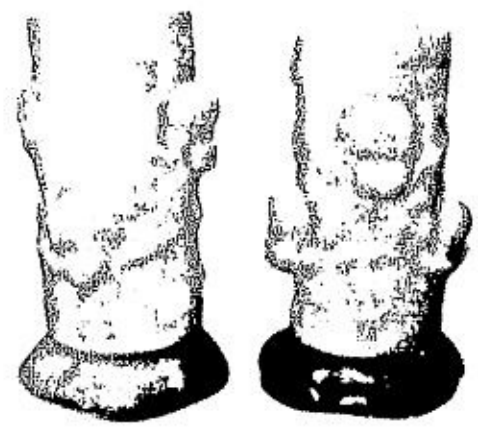
ACROSS
1 Place
6 "Summer in the —" ('66 hit)
10 Speaker's request
15 "Cheerio!"
19 Dwelling
20 Field of study
21 Variety show
22 Actor Epps
23 Kiel or Erie
24 Speaker of remark at 53 Across
26 Heyerdahl's "Kon- —"
27 Cantaloupe or casaba
29 Frigga's fellow
30 Some steaks
32 Shorefront
35 Lucifer
37 — Lanka
38 TV's "— Life to Live"
39 Director Wanamaker
40 "— of the Tiger" ('82 smash)
41 "King Kong" star
42 Neighbor of Minn.
44 Strong — ox
46 Cousteau milieu
47 Read quickly
49 Galley features
53 Start of a remark
60 Less alert
61 City on the Seine
62 Practice piece
63 Hue
64 "Shane" star
65 Benedictine address
66 Cable network
69 Portable bed
70 Salute for Caesar
71 — carte
73 Ukr., formerly
74 Swill server
76 Genesis shepherd
77 School subject
79 Decorate
80 Baker's appliance
82 "Time —" ('78 hit)
86 Part 2 of remark
89 Very, in Versailles
90 "Heavens to Betsy!"
91 Capp and Capone
92 "Ethan Frome" prop
94 Bear or Berra
96 — worship
98 Moment (Abbr.)
101 Bandleader Lyman
102 "— you for real?"
105 RN's specialty
106 Bridge expert Charles
107 Wagnerian role
109 Expand
111 Architect Saarinen
112 Stable offering
113 Oil cartel
114 End of remark
118 — de menthe
122 Russo of "Showtime"
123 Singer Lopez
124 — me tangere
125 Sanctioned
126 Blyton or Bagnold
127 Coleslaw, e.g.
128 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
129 Barely beat, with "out"

DOWN
1 Cul-de- —
2 TV-listing abbr.
3 Time to evolve?
4 "Watership Down" author
5 X out
6 Soft-soap
7 Rock's — Butterfly
8 Indian export
9 TV chef Martin
10 Crusoe's companion
11 "Rosemary's Baby" author
12 Hot spot?
13 TV's "— Miss Brooks"
14 Fix a pearl necklace
15 Dorothy's dog
16 — acid
17 Spoken for
18 Greet Eos
25 Composer Nino
28 Set down
31 Encore exclamation
32 Civil War letters
33 "Midnight at the —" ('74 hit)
34 Menotti character
35 Vow
36 Spirited steed
37 Quaint boyfriend?
43 Sportscaster Bob
45 Dundee denial
46 Driving hazard
47 Earring type
48 — Guevara
50 Touches
51 More uncouth
52 Young follower?
54 Donkey doc
55 Distinctive era
56 Spanish sherry
57 Valor
58 Sing in the Alps
59 "Tell — About It" ('83 song)
64 Tag
65 '80 Dom DeLuise film
66 Passion
67 Demi or Dudley
68 Bow to a bigwig
71 Collect
72 Endure
74 Wilson's predecessor
75 Wildebeest
76 Cut staff
78 Back of the knee
80 Copperfield's field
81 Call — day
82 Tower
83 Helium or hydrogen
84 Fame
85 Biblical kingdom
87 Disregards
88 Full-grown filly
93 Cub Scout group
95 Legendary Giant
96 Dreadful
97 Aphrodite's son
98 Frustrate
99 Fumble
100 "— of Friends" ('95 film)
102 Idolize
103 Develop
104 Nicholas Gage book
106 Davis of "Stuart Little"
108 Bit
110 Served well
111 Like 35 Across
112 Blend
115 ". . . man — mouse?"
116 Big bang letters
117 — polloi
119 Souffle ingredient
120 Dogpatch's Daisy —
121 Yore

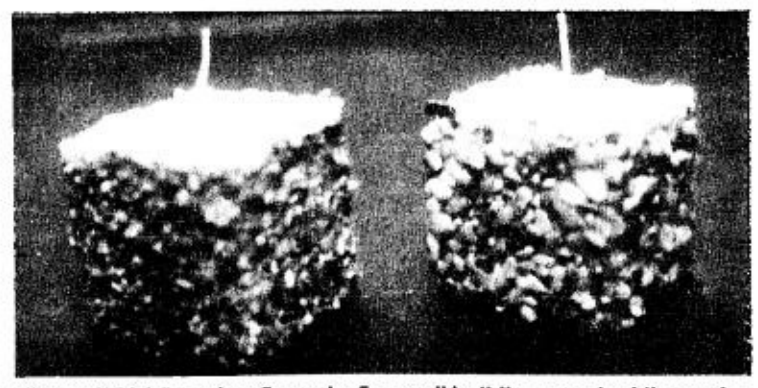


answer on page H3

THEY who have so little give so much. Five of the eight active workers pose with Sr. Enriqueta Agramon, FMM (seated) at their modest work place-cum-display room. Kapitbahayan is assisted by a volunteer auditor so "there's inventory control." Run like a small business, it hopes to employ accountants to professionalize its members' livelihood projects.



SR. Enri says they make their own candle molds from designs and patterns found in books. The resulting products come in a wide array of designs that are comparable to those of expensive brands. Most are scented, with citronella being a favorite among clients.



"[HELPING is] not just [erecting] a small building or a shed," says the benefactor. "What's needed is a step-by-step program that needs to be followed through. Otherwise it's *ningas cogon*."

'Income is only secondary'

From page G2

Service, not profit

Neither do the women get compensation for their work in the clinic.

Since patients are mostly poor parishioners, acupuncture and massage services rendered are "paid" only with modest donations, which goes to Kapitbahayan's contingency fund. The women are merely given fare and snack money.

Bigger reparation is given when they take home-service calls for massage. From this, they give a tiny percentage to the contingency fund. The fund is aimed at providing emergency assistance to the poor in the barangay.

In their efforts to make their programs come full circle, the nuns, with assistance from two more donors, also sent seven male parishioners to learn the rudiments of refrigeration and air-conditioning in a vocational school. Now, they provide cleaning and repair services to homes and offices.

The nuns said the present workers will soon train a new group of 12 women.

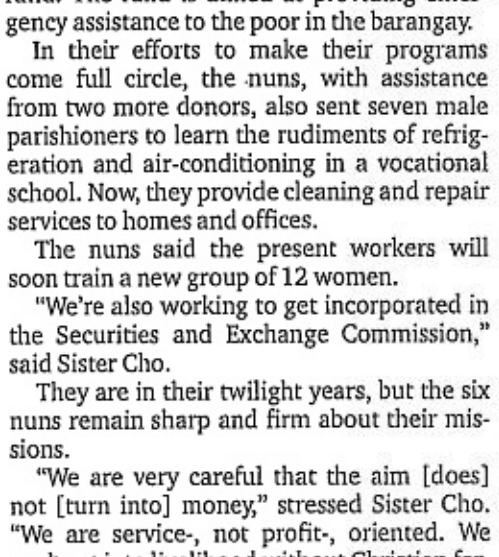
"We're also working to get incorporated in the Securities and Exchange Commission," said Sister Cho.

They are in their twilight years, but the six nuns remain sharp and firm about their missions.

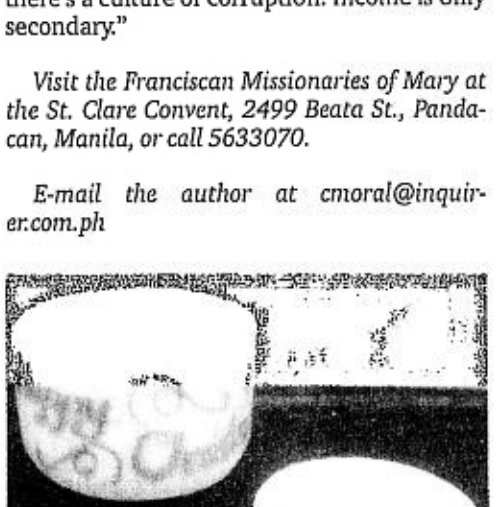
"We are very careful that the aim [does] not [turn into] money," stressed Sister Cho. "We are service-, not profit-, oriented. We can't get into livelihood without Christian formation, especially in our society where there's a culture of corruption. Income is only secondary."

Visit the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at the St. Clare Convent, 2499 Beata St., Pandacan, Manila, or call 5633070.

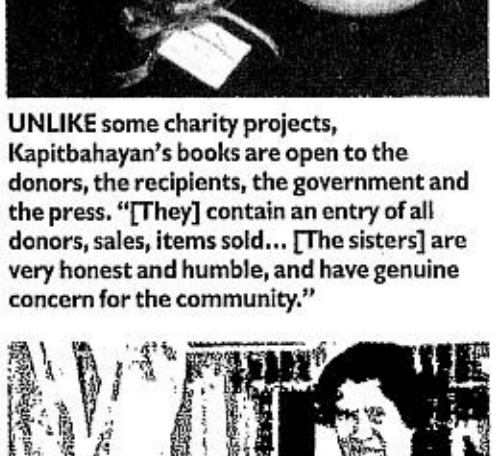
E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

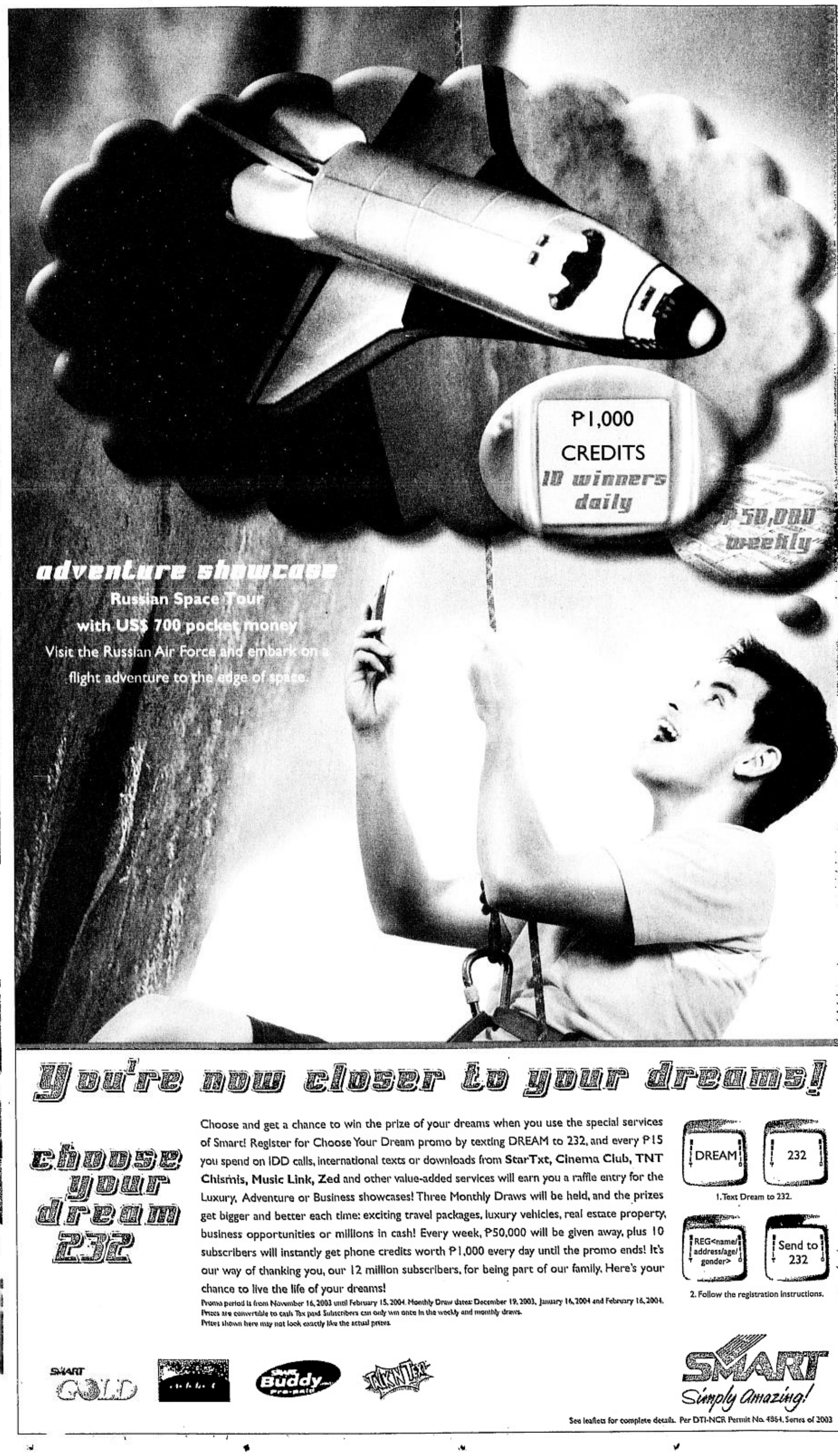


UNLIKE some charity projects, Kapitbahayan's books are open to the donors, the recipients, the government and the press. "[They] contain an entry of all donors, sales, items sold... [The sisters] are very honest and humble, and have genuine concern for the community."



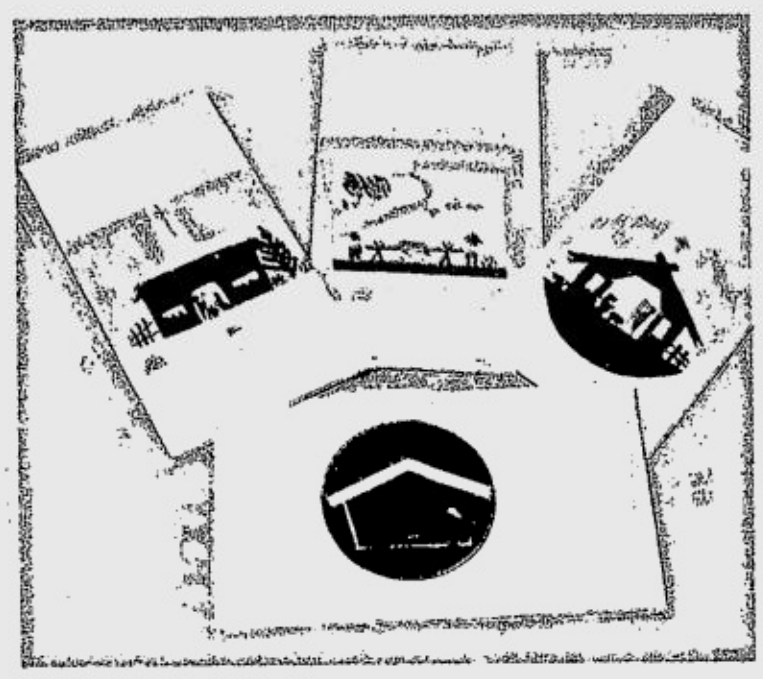
HEALING HANDS. Sr. Gloria Coquia, FMM, a registered nurse, administers acupuncture to an indigent patient.



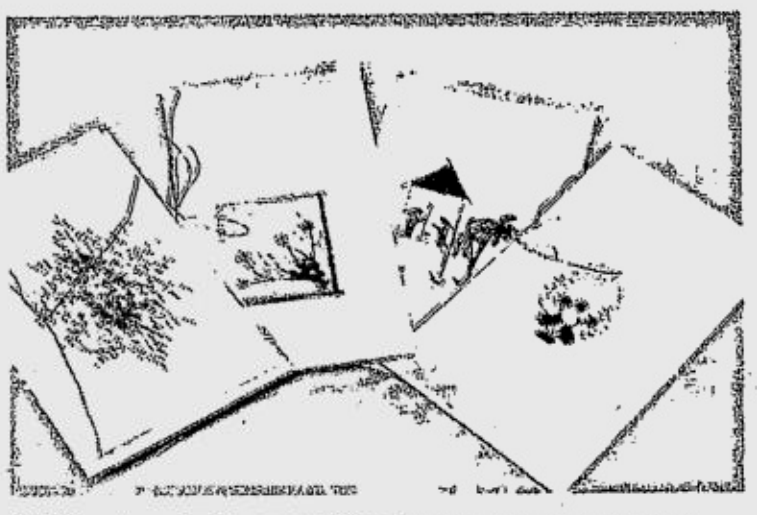


Holiday gifts made by model urban p

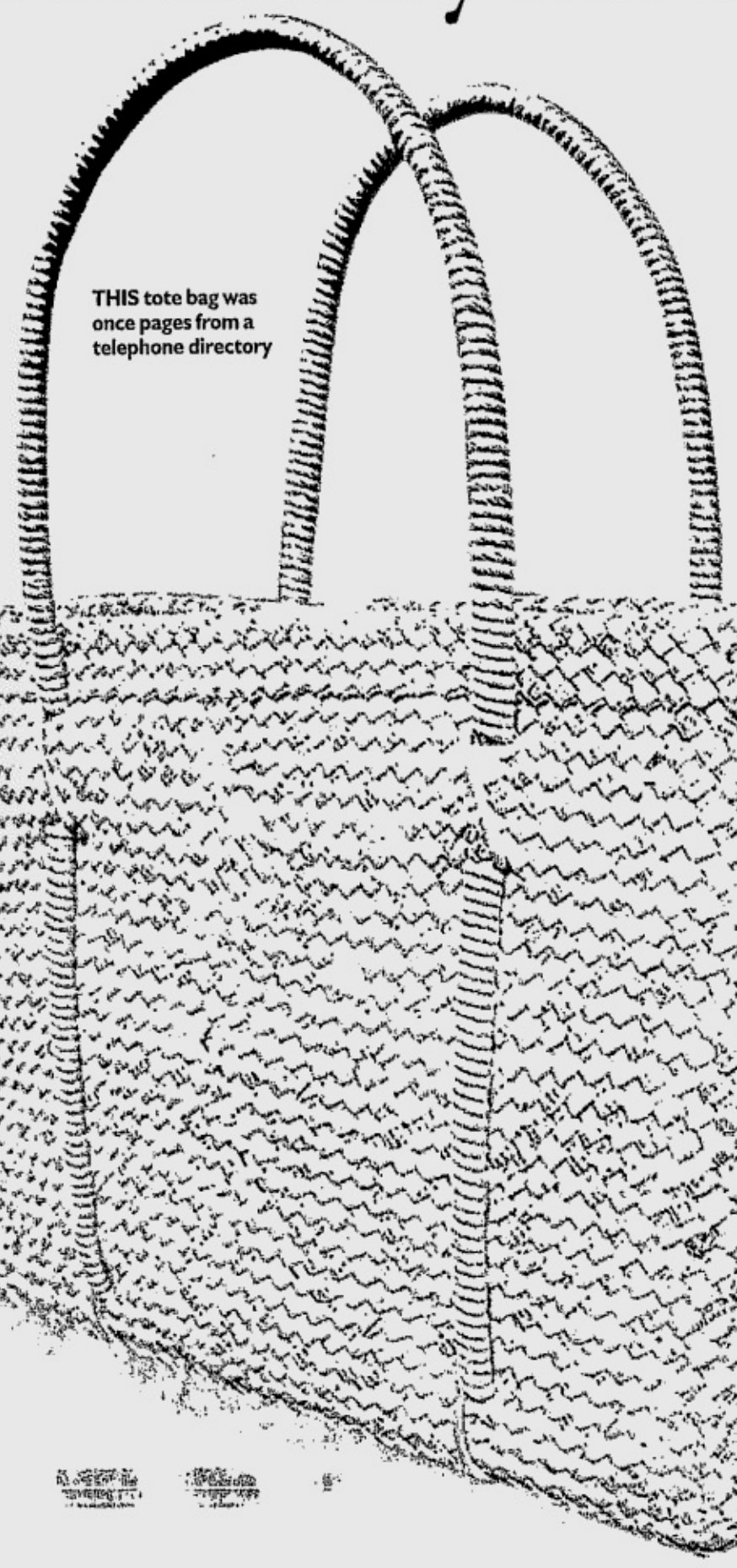
EXOTIC and colorful flour-sack shirts come in all sizes



CHRISTMAS cards



WEED note cards, Xmas cards "made by the Cebu urban power"



THIS tote bag was once pages from a telephone directory

"ALAY KAPWA—made in dignity by Filipino artisans," is stamped on myriad products wrought by the flock Ramon Magsaysay awardee Sr. Christine Tan, who passed away last month, now shepherds from heaven.

The products, currently on display at Alay Kapwa's outlet at Rockwell fronting the second floor escalator, make for great handmade but inexpensive Christmas gifts.

They come from the community inextricably associated with Sr. Christine's name and legacy—Leveriza, Tondo, across the street from the Manila Zoo.

Nowadays, there surely can be no cleaner, more dignified squatter community than Leveriza.

This was hardly the case when she and three other nuns moved from the holy, well-ordered and comfortable convent of the Religious of the Good Shepherd into this corner of squalor in 1979.

"The Pope's Vatican II told us to come down from our ivory tower and serve the people," Sr. Vincent Borromeo said. That's exactly what the intrepid nuns did.

Sr. Christine's band of nuns didn't believe in dole-outs as a way to uplift the community, so they went into community organizing to teach their neighbors handicraft-making instead.

The community responded by coming out with trendy bags, dishcloths and aprons, soaps, candles, and Christmas trees and trimmings.

The best works of all are the handmade note cards in cutout rural designs of carabaos and rice paddies, or exquisitely arranged weeds, and Christmas cards of cutout straw mangers and nativity scenes.

"Our main goal is to work for the dignity of the person. We are here for immersion, not to glorify poverty," but to bring about pride in work and pride of place, said Sr. Vincent.

At its daycare centers in Sariaya, Cavite and Cebu, Alay Kapwa subsidizes children's lunches. It has also sent 18 kids to college scholarships and 35 more in elementary and high school. Some

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Christmas campaign for the less fortunate

SHOPPERS are invited to do their share in Make a Child Happy this Christmas charity campaign, ongoing at all SM Supermalls until Jan. 2, 2004.

A joint project with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Manila Broadcasting Company radio network—dzRH, Love Radio and Yes FM, the campaign aims to give cheer to less-fortunate children. Other partners include the United Nations International Children's Fund (Unicef), Toy Kingdom and Casio Music Circle.

There are several ways to make a child happy this Christmas. One can buy a Unicef card at their booth at all SM Supermalls and help Unicef help children. SM's tie-up with Unicef recently had a launch at SM Megamall, and brought together SM Foundation and Unicef officials and donors, who were treated to a performance by Unicef ambassador Gary Valenciano.

One can also share a toy and share their joys at the Make a Child Happy this Christmas booths at all SM Supermalls. Shoppers can buy new toys at the booth or donate their old toys. Each donation will entitle one to a coupon from Toy Kingdom.

Over the past seven years, SM Foundation's Share a Toy campaign has collected over 60,000 toys which have been distributed to sick children in government hospitals, as well as kids in charitable institutions.

Talented kids from charitable institutions, as well as handicapped musicians will also enthrall shoppers with the sounds of Christmas in performances at the booth and at the different malls' activity areas.

SM Foundation beneficiaries will also be treated to The Sound of Music through Casio EMI and the Casio Music Circle. The less fortunate kids will be treated to a musical show featuring Casio EMI's wide array of electronic and digital keyboards, free musical lessons and fun games with exciting prizes.

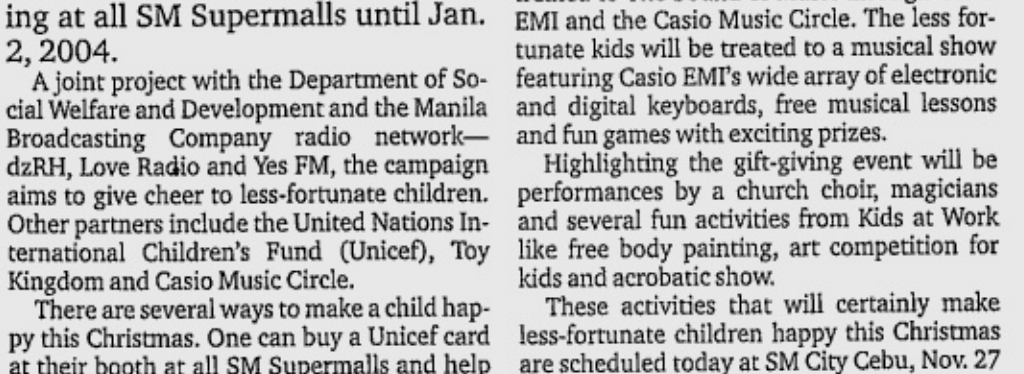
Highlighting the gift-giving event will be performances by a church choir, magicians and several fun activities from Kids at Work like free body painting, art competition for kids and acrobatic show.

These activities that will certainly make less-fortunate children happy this Christmas are scheduled today at SM City Cebu, Nov. 27 at SM City Marilao, Nov. 28 at SM City Bicutan and Nov. 30 at SM City Baguio.

In December, these are scheduled on Dec. 5 at SM City Fairview, Dec. 7 at SM City Iloilo, Dec. 12 at SM City Davao, Dec. 13 at SM City Manila, Dec. 14 at SM Southmall, Dec. 19 at SM City Bacoor and Dec. 28 at SM City North-Edsa.

Do your share and make a child happy this Christmas. Donation booths are located at the lower ground floors of SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Cebu, Upper Ground Floors of SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor and SM City Manila.

Shoppers can also visit donation booths at the ground floors of SM City Sucat, SM City Pampanga, SM City Davao, SM City Cagayan de Oro, SM City Lucena and SM City Marilao. Other booths are located at the 2/F of SM City Sta. Mesa and SM City Bicutan, and the 3/F of SM City Baguio.



PEOPLE helping people: The MOA signing of "Help Unicef Help Children" campaign is participated in by SM Foundation's executive directors Connie Angeles and Debbie Sy, Unicef's officer-in-charge Dale Rutstein, Unicef's former representative Dr. Terrel Hill and Unicef national ambassador Gary Valenciano

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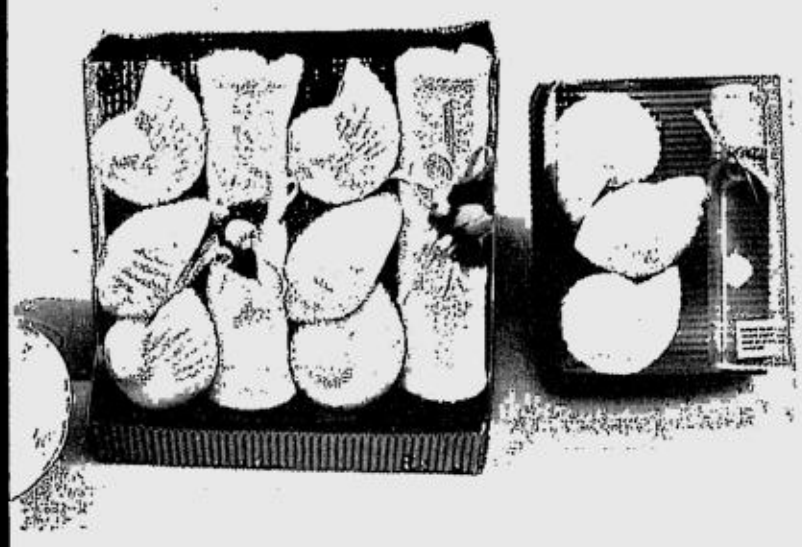
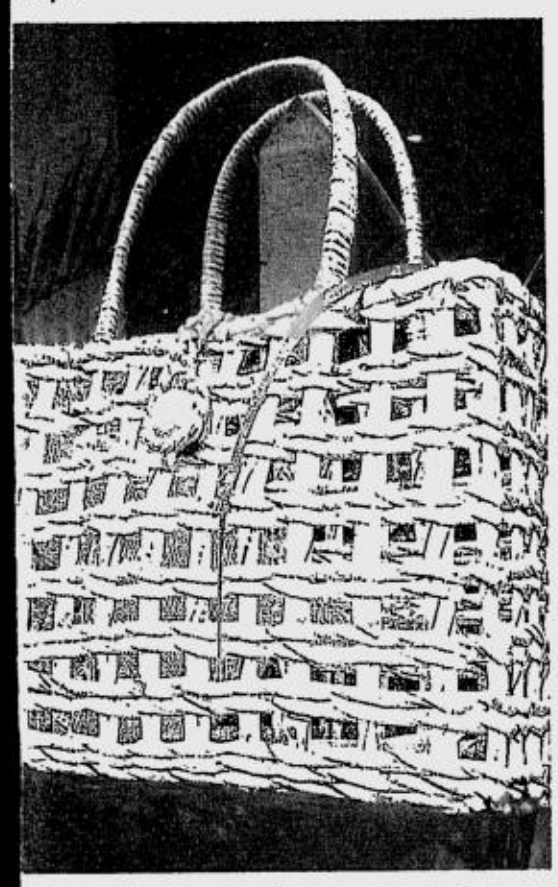
oor community



soaps ·

PROUDLY made in Cebu with dignity

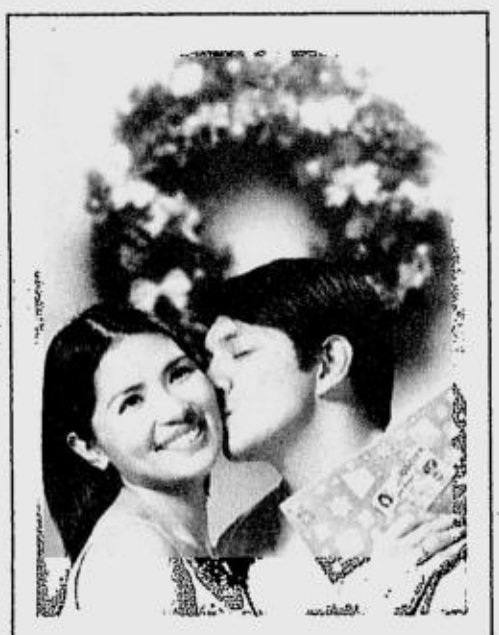
ALAY Kapwa administrative staff and bookkeeper Lourdes Lunor, general secretary Mina Moron and storekeeper Evelyn Jacela



D bag made of woven phone directory strips

ulong Aral" beneficiaries likewise re- uniforms and school supplies in June. 's why it would be great if more people come to Leveriza or to Alay Kapwa's ell outlet to buy Christmas gifts for

only will they find low-priced but great ade items to cherish, there's also the tion of helping strengthen Sr. Chris- elfless legacy.



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Apply for a supplementary card online through www.citibank.com.ph and enjoy added bonuses. Principal cardholders of Citibank Silver and Gold MasterCard and Visa earn 1,000 bonus Rewards points on top of the waived first-year annual fees for their supplementary cards. Principal Citibank Clear Card members will get two months' worth of rebate on their membership fees or savings of P180. Call 9959999.

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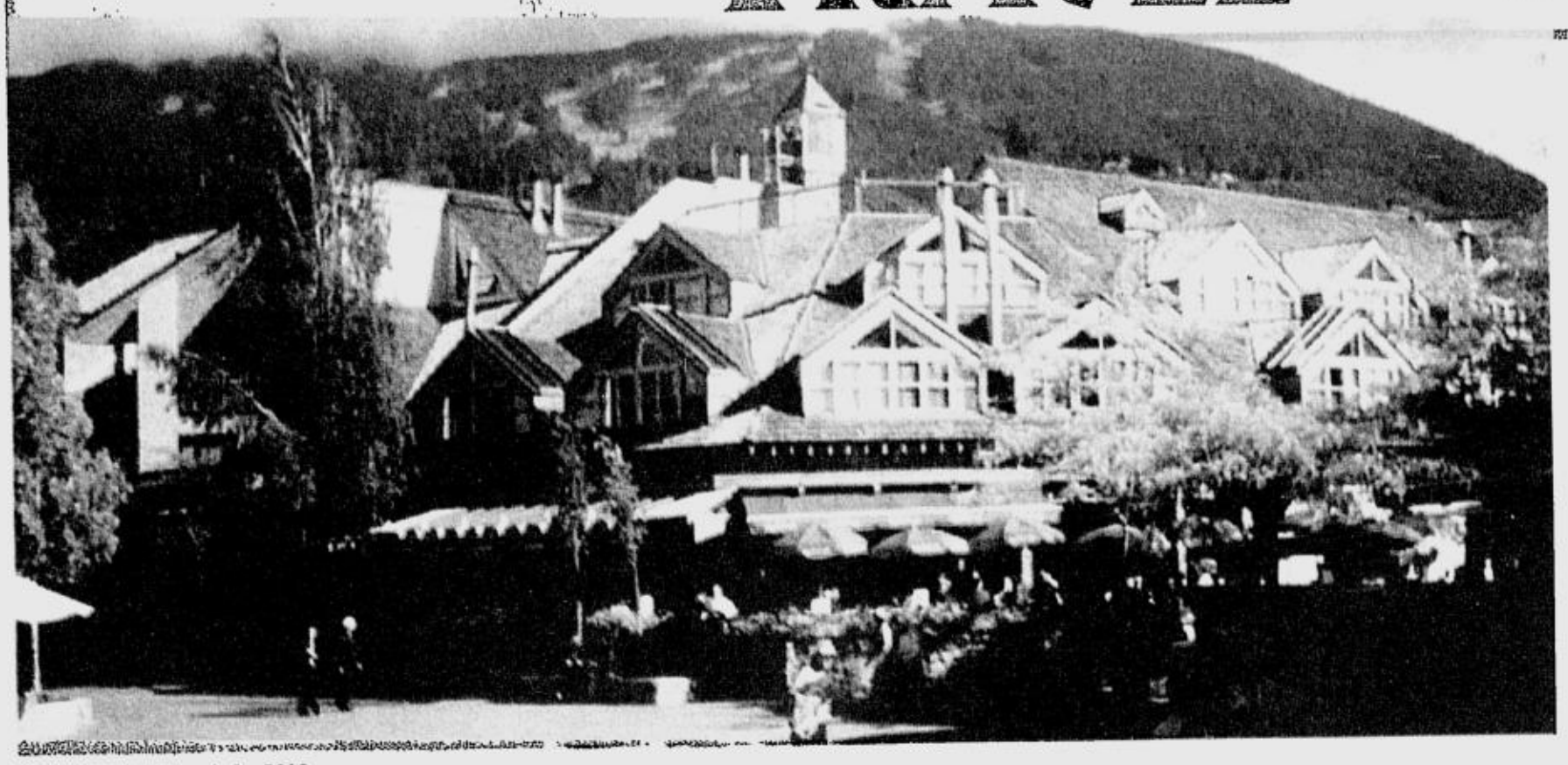
TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



WHISTLER gets ready for 2010.

Vancouver *vividly*

Text and photos by Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

SOMETHING old, something new, something familiar, something different.

That's generally what you expect to see when returning to a place. But if you have fond memories of it, you wish it has stayed the way you remember it.

Thus was I predisposed when I recently revisited Vancouver, the first spot in the North American continent that I set foot on 10 years ago. And like a cherished friend, the city didn't let me down. Even as it wore a sleek new look in some areas, the old country-friendly air still pervaded, as palpable as when I was first swept by it.

Vancouver was a vague geographic name in 1993 when a newspaper colleague recommended me for a media fellowship organized by the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, an independent, non-profit think tank mandated to bridge the gap with Asia. But the six-week cross-Canada program left me so enamored of that big, beautiful country, it set me on the course of travel writing and amateur photography.

If my life savings were enough, I would have blown the whole thing on a grand tour to retrace my steps across 15 cities in six states, from British Columbia in the west all the way to Nova Scotia on the Atlantic side, to mark the 10th year of that visit. I am thankful to Philippine Airlines that I at least made it to the starting point, Vancouver, the APFC's headquarters.

While I sought out the old and the familiar, the Vancouverites I befriended on my first visit briefed me on the changes. Moments after meeting me at the airport, Filipino painter Ulysses La Rosa and wife Imelda, with granddaughter Paulina in tow, were showing off the skyline as our van crossed the bridge over Fraser River on the approach to downtown Vancouver.

"We expect more construction as 2010 nears," said Ulysses, referring to the year the city hosts the Winter Olympic Games (Feb. 12-28) and the ParaOlympic Games (March 12-21).

Even the YWCA Hotel/Residence, where I booked a room for the first night, was apparently relatively new: The La Rosas hadn't seen it before. Its clean, homey amenities, secure location, and affordable rates, plus the friendly reassurance of Filipino front-desk staff Placido Gaborno (with a discount to boot!), convinced them it was OK to let me stay there.

The "Y" on Beatty Street is located across from the BC Place Stadium, on the fringes of what the La Rosas' son Jojo later told me was Yaletown, a warehouse district transformed into a hip yuppie residential-commercial area, one of the biggest property development projects in the last 10 years.

Beatty connects Georgia, which stretches all the way to Stanley Park across downtown, and Robson, the most popular shop-restaurant-café street, where the mood is perpetually party-happy and there's a Starbucks on practically every corner.

This made the "Y" the ideal starting point for a walking tour to the places where my memories of Vancouver are most vivid. These include the Holy Rosary Cathedral on Richards and Dunsmuir streets, a convergence point for Filipinos on Sundays, the Ramada Renaissance Hotel on West Hastings, "home" for the first 10 days and the final two days of the fellowship, and Canada Place, the "school" where we attended a crash course on Canadiana at the APFC offices on the sixth floor.

Along the way, sights old and new vied for attention, like the red-and-tan turn-of-the-century trolley, a city icon that takes tourists around major attractions, and the new Vancouver Public Library.

Gone was the parking lot that offered a shortcut from West Hastings to the parallel street, West Pender, momentarily throwing me off. Supplanting it were swank structures squeezed side by side, including a towering Marriott Hotel. But the Renaissance's distinctive glass-and-black-marble façade reassured me that I was in the right place.

Two blocks away on the waterfront was Canada Place, its promenade busier

OLD and new: Tourist trolley trundles along...

The city wears a sleek new look in some places, but the old country-friendly air remains

...AND passes the new public library

now as a station for various tour vehicles, besides being a cruise ship terminal. Built for the 1986 world fair celebrating the city's centennial, this white building jutting into Burrard Inlet has a roof shaped like five equidistant white sails, similar to those on the Sydney Opera House (though not as gracefully arched).

Thankfully, the heavens chose to belie the weather forecasts and blessed my trip down Memory Lane with clear, sunny skies.

My reminiscing mood also apparently rubbed off on Ron Richardson, APFC executive editor and fellowship director/escort. The moment I walked into his office, he exclaimed, waving a sheaf of papers: "Look what I dug up in my computer files—your itinerary in British Columbia! I didn't realize I still had it."

Through his picture window my gaze panned the inlet's shoreline for more familiar sights. There was the railway of the transcontinental CN Rail, servicing the Port of Vancouver (Canada's largest). So was what I'd called "yellow mountain." A familiar sight on the dock was this giant heap of sulfur powder, one of the major cargoes. It's responsible for the distinct smell in the Vancouver air: slightly pungent but tempered by the sea breeze; it actually grows on you.

The seagulls—the lords of the skies whose cries as they swoop over human territory are the sounds I associate with Vancouver—seemed to have diminished in number, though, probably crowded out by the new high-rise buildings.

"A few more years and that whole area will be full of new development," Ron said, pointing toward Coal Harbour. As in Yaletown, Hong Kong (immigrant) money is behind it, reshaping the face of Vancouver, he remarked.

Amid the laid-back ambience, the city's pace seemed to be picking up. The SkyTrain light rail transit ferrying commuters across Greater Vancouver now had a second route, dubbed the Millennium Line. I rode the futuristic new coach, accompanied by Imelda La Rosa.

"Maybe on your next visit you'll just get on the SkyTrain with your luggage and you'll be in the city in a few minutes," she said. By 2005, construction will begin on a third line, which will run between downtown Vancouver and suburban Richmond, through the international airport. The Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Rapid Transit Project is expected to be completed by 2009 in time for the Winter Olympics.

Also in preparation for the sporting event, widening and other upgrades had begun on Highway 99 leading to Whistler, the quaint mountain ski resort village an hour and a half from Vancouver, where events like downhill skiing and bobsledding will be held. In the village itself, construction on additional lodgings was in full swing.

It probably wasn't the best time to be in Whistler—where the skiing season lasts from early November until late May—but the trip was well worth it.

"It's the best drive," Jojo promised, although he let his mother take the wheel. The awesome mountain views, the sparkling sea, and the spectacular waterfalls we passed on the way were a feast for the eyes.

But there was something more breathtaking on the way down the highway, dubbed "the most romantic road in the world." In the dimming light of sunset, the mountains were languorous silhouettes in silver, gray and midnight blue, floating on still waters in various angles of asymmetrical overlay.

It's Ulysses' painting come alive, I thought, remembering the scenery he was painting on canvas for the Stanley Park 1993 spring-summer art exhibit, where I first met him and Imelda. Nature drew this immigrant to Canada 36 years ago; it's the most enduring image visitors take home.

"I've been living here since 1980, and I'm still in awe of its beauty," said my classmate, Marian Crisostomo-Ocampo whom I had the chance to see again after 32 years. She, her sister and a couple of friends took me to the Peace Arch Park on the Canadian-US border, where the gardens are considered a horticultural showcase.

There's more to Vancouver (and Canada) than scenery and clean environment, of course. Even in 1993, the institutions and companies we toured were pioneering or making breakthroughs in such fields as artificial intelligence, wastewater management, geographic information systems, nuclear power generation, fiber optics, automation.

"Generally, there's still little appreciation in Asia of modern Canada and the strength of our hi-tech industry," Ron lamented, citing a survey of business leaders and policymakers.

But the steady Asian migration and Canada's policy of multiculturalism promote a better awareness of each other's cultures, he said.

Ron conceded that toward this end, the fellowship failed to make a significant contribution. Still, it inspired some of the memorable stories this journalist has written.

A Canada-US relay

UNABLE to go cross-country on my Canadian commemorative trip, I crossed the border instead to the United States and went to Bremerton, Washington, and the California Bay Area.

Including Vancouver, I was on the road for 12 days, in what someone described as "a marathon tour."

But it was more like a relay as I passed from one home to the next, one host to another, like valuable cargo stamped "handle with care" and requiring no less than door-to-door delivery.

From the "Y" in Vancouver, I moved to Ulysses and Imelda La Rosa's condo in suburban New Westminster---in two stages, care of their sons Jojo and Paul.

After taking me through Whistler, the La Rosas deposited me at the Surrey home of Marian Crisostomo-Ocampo, the first of a group of classmates at St. Theresa's College hosting me. I stayed there until I left for the United States.

On the sixth day I left Vancouver, under exciting circumstances. I was going to take the shuttle to Seattle, Washington, where my cousin Suzanne Goloy-Lanot would meet me and then take me to her home in the shipyard city of Bremerton across the Puget Sound.

I missed the shuttle! I was in Marian's van, so the shuttle driver, seeing no passenger at the pick-up point, drove on. Marian trailed the bus up to the border and appealed to the driver, who turned me away just the same.

Rose Zuñiga, a friend of Marian's who had followed us, decided she'd just drive us all to Seattle, which is two hours or so away. After paying $6 for a special US immigration permit, apparently a post-9-11 requirement even for multiple-entry visa holders, we were on our way.

Despite a 35-minute traffic delay just past the border, we made it to the Seattle-Tacoma airport in time for my "hand-over" to Suzanne, her husband Leo, and their son Hombee, at the airport parking building.

After three days with my cousin, whom I hadn't seen since 1987, I was off again, this time back to Seattle to catch the Amtrak to California. My niece Adrienne drove to the wharf early one morning and dragged my luggage all the way up to the ferry entrance, in her high-heeled clogs!

The 24-hour train ride gave me a chance to catch up on sleep. Arriving at San Jose, I hadn't yet shaken off the rhythm of the locomotive when I was whisked off to Monterey by Toni Dugaduga-Acenas. We toured Carmel-by-the-Sea and the 17-Mile Drive, with a shopping stopover before heading to her hillside home in Alta Vista Way.

Before noon the next day, it was back to the railway, as Toni and I took the CalTrain to San Francisco. Motherly duties required this top Silicon Valley psychiatrist to be back home that evening, so Doc Toni was turning me over to Francesca Valdez—at her nightclub!

No, I wasn't going to have to dance for my supper. A company party was scheduled at Francesca's Broadway Studios that night, which meant she couldn't go home earlier than early morning. The best she could do was take me and Toni on a lightning tour of her Sausalito art-deco home and the marina.

Back at the club, I and more classmates, Dolly Maliwat-Milcarek, Cynthia Alfonso-Dalton and Melissa Enerio-Field ("authorized" gatecrashers all), swapped stories amid the music and the din of punch lines delivered onstage.

In the wee hours of the morning, as voices in the street wafted up to where I lay on the brink of sleep, I stared at the tiger-print cloth draping the ceiling and thought with a chuckle: I spent the first night of my trip in a homey hostel, and now, the last, in a nightclub attic!

I thought I'd take it easy the next day prior to my 10:30 p.m. departure. But Dolly had other plans. She met Francesca and me at the San Francisco General Hospital, where Francesca's partner was confined for a bad fall. Outside the hospital back door, my final hand-over took place.

With Filipino take-out food and my luggage in the back seat, diminutive Dolly drove to what I felt was the end of Northern California, for a late lunch at Melissa's house in Concord.

Stopping briefly at her house in Daly City to weigh my luggage, Dolly assured me that I'd get to the San Francisco airport on time, then took me on a side trip to Burlingame for a stroll past ritzy shops and some girl talk over coffee until 7 p.m.

Happily, the flight home sustained the mood of the days just past. A few hours before landing, as I savored thoughts of friends, who should get up from the seat in front of me and ask for help in finding her eyeglasses but another classmate!

Cecilia Melendres-Santos, of Philippine Airlines' IT department, was returning from a business trip—the final link in the friendship chain stretching to the other side of the globe.

Angelina G. Goloy

TravelBriefs

Clark-Seoul packages

TOUR packages for Seoul via the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark Field are being offered by Asiana Airlines twice weekly for economy and business class passengers.

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Veddy British

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Swissotel The Howard, London recently had a full refurbishment. It enjoys one of the best locations in the city, with Covent Garden, West End, and landmarks such as the St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Tate Modern and London Eye within easy reach.

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Showcase of carnival Christmas

FLAMBOYANT in their elegance, the feathers add glamour to this crystal chandelier.

THERE is a hush as you enter the Flora Silk Showrooms (tels. 8003807-09) and stand in captured awe amid rows and rows of Christmas trees filled with décor you have never seen before.

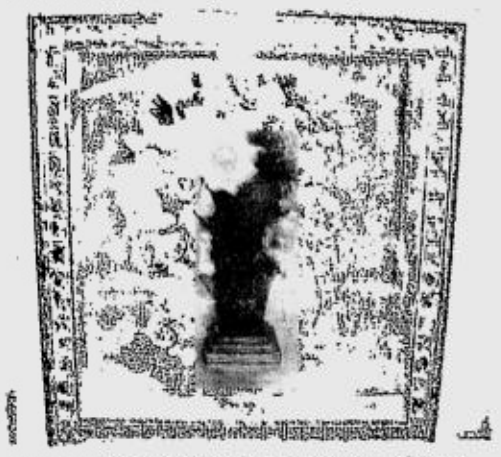
This is a Mike Sandoval's masterpiece. A whole stage of grandeur, whimsy, coquetry, sophistication, glamour.

It is a carnival Christmas here; you are swept to Venice, Rio, Trinidad and Tobago. Magnificent masks, flamboyant feathers, varied musical instruments make up the trimmings on the trees. Christmas décor is as trendy as the couture collection and ready-to-wear fashion. Every year, there is a theme and chosen color.

Through careful research, the firm of Flora Silk has come out with the carnival scene after visits to trade fairs in Europe, showrooms in the states and consultations with Asian suppliers. Through books and websites, they peeped into the world's celebrated carnivals and came up with these highly sophisticated Christmas scenery. The theme color this year is turquoise, accompanied by traditional trimmings of the season.

With the excitement and merriment that is Christmas, the carnival theme at Flora Silk clearly illustrates the fantastic creativity and originality of the Filipino artist.

Flora Silk is at Unit 3, A&P Warehouse, Manila Doctors Road, Almanza, Las Piñas.



A MURANO vase in deep maroon makes a fitting vessel for this centerpiece of flowers and baubles with touches of interesting sprays.

A "MASQUE" tree in red with ostrich feathers in touches of magenta

Luxury spa offers promo

THE FARM at San Benito, a modern alternative medical facility and luxury spa in Lipa, Batangas, is celebrating its first anniversary with a promo.

Treat yourself and your loved ones this festive season to a unique health vacation at The Farm while enjoying 30-percent off the regular rates from Nov. 15-Dec. 20.

Let The Farm's trained staff guide you through a five, seven or 14-day health vacation designed to introduce you to a unique concept of healthier living, weight loss and cleansing of the body and mind.

You will learn to be more conscious about your food choices and to empower yourself in creating a healthier, reenergized new self.

Those suffering from any particular chronic disease are invited to contact the resort's medical department for personal consultations and to learn more alternative therapies present at The Farm.

Call 7282451, 6963175, 6963795 or 8229056, fax 728-6838 or visit www.thefarm.com.ph

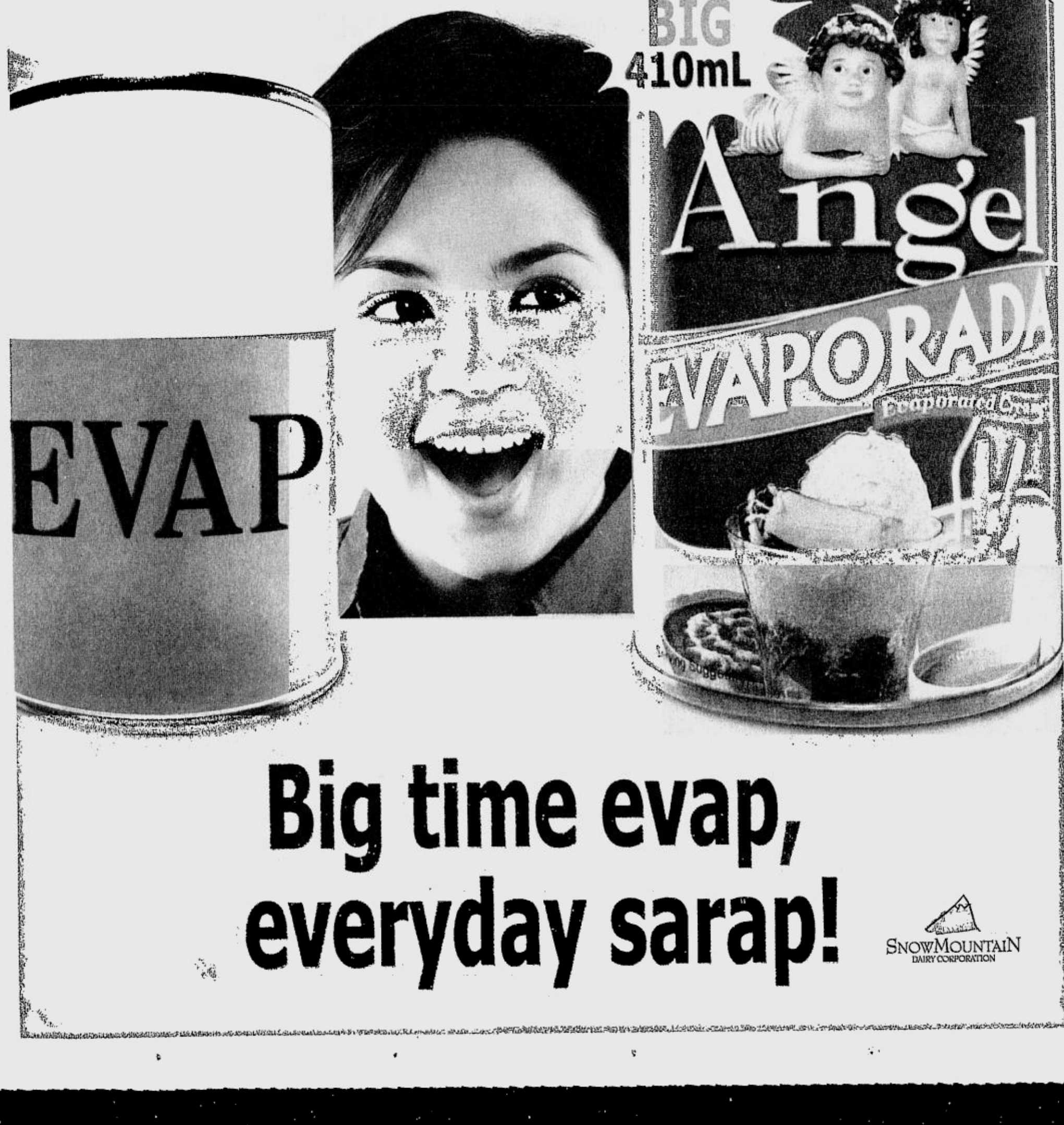
National Book Week celebration

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) will celebrate the 69th National Book Week (NBW) on Nov. 24-28 with the theme Aklat at Aklatan: Kaagapay sa Aktibong Karunungan Tungo sa Pambansang Kaunlaran.

Among the NBW activities is a national congress of PLAI and the National Committee on Libraries and Information Services on Nov. 26-28 at Manila Pavilion Hotel on UN Avenue.

Highlight of the weeklong celebrations will be the fellowship program on Nov. 28.

Mas malaki kaysa iba!



Big time evap, everyday sarap!

SNOWMOUNTAIN DAIRY CORPORATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2003 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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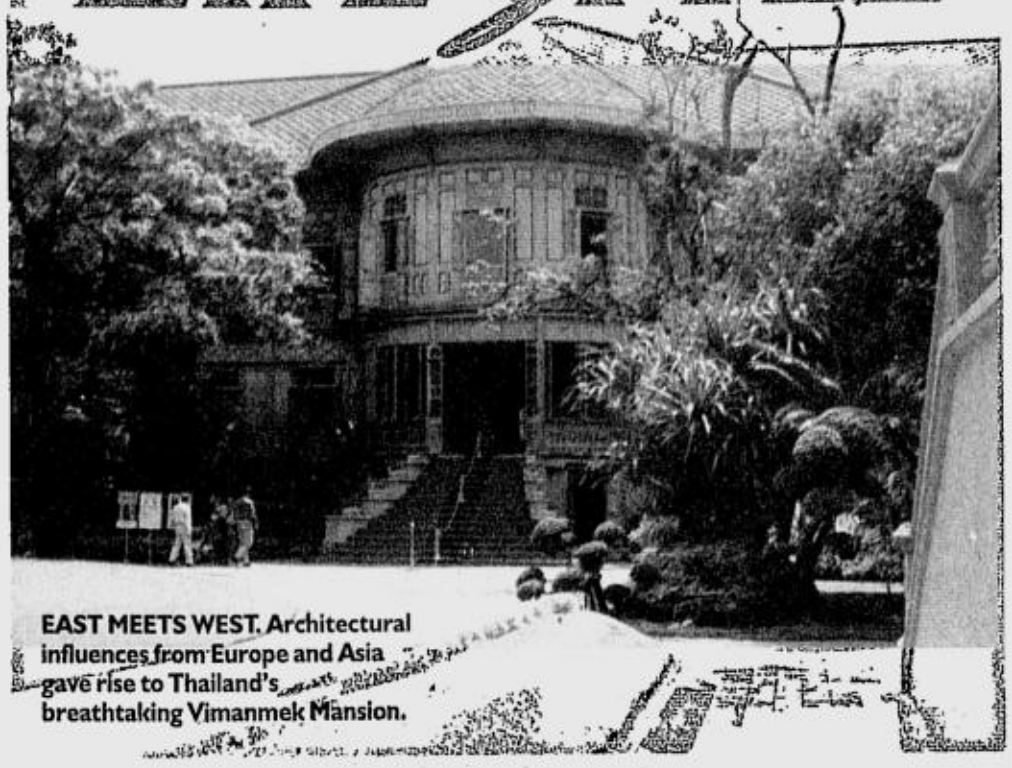
Sunday LIFESTYLE



EAST MEETS WEST. Architectural influences from Europe and Asia gave rise to Thailand's breathtaking Vimanmek Mansion.

Getting to know the king's majestic mansion

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

NEVER stand a head taller than the king. Bow down before His Majesty. Remove your shoes and be properly dressed. Show respect in the presence of royalty.

Or, in this case, in the presence of the late King Rama V's portrait hanging on the wall in the Throne Room of the Vimanmek Mansion, the world's largest golden teakwood mansion in the heart of Bangkok, Thailand.

It's for good luck, the guide quickly explained, and so hesitant tourists, otherwise repulsed by the idea of absolute submission to Old World monarchy, gamely indulged in the protocol.

Ironically, though, visitors bowed down to the image of a king who turned around many of Thailand's age-old traditions.

It was the late King Rama V himself who, upon his ascension to the throne at 20 in 1888, decreed that his people no longer needed to prostrate themselves before the king.

That modernist streak shows in his photo, which, although it vividly captures his noble bearing and heritage, presents him comfortably dressed in a snappy western suit—coat, tie and all.

It was also Rama V who reformed his homeland into what it is today, first by abolishing slavery and then giving up his sole land ownership of the whole of Thailand.

Rama V, or Chulalongkorn, was the son of King Rama IV, the famous ruler portrayed in the movie "The King and I."

Indeed, this imposing splendor of a residence is probably a remarkable display of teacher Anna Leonowens' influence on a king who grew up with a tutor from the West.

Verdant enclave

It was upon King Rama V's return from his European tour in 1897 that he contemplated on creating his "garden," once named the Dusit Garden and now known as the Dusit Palace.

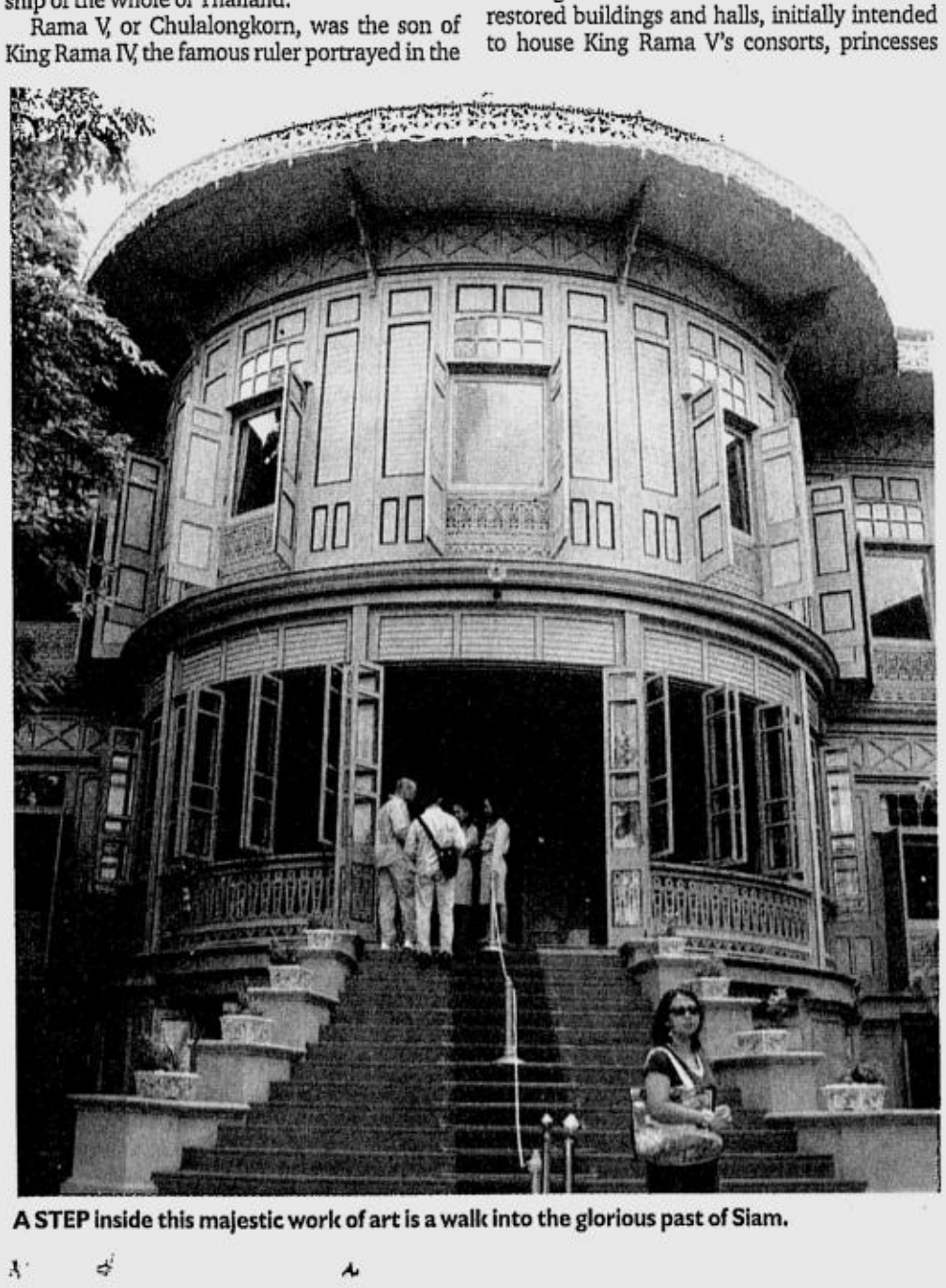
So impressed was he by the architecture of the Western palaces he saw on his visit. But he also loved taking long, lazy walks, so he needed a verdant enclave outside the fortress of the Grand Palace to engage in this activity.

He was said to have often commented that the Grand Palace was too warm, especially during summers, since the buildings surrounding it obstructed the breezes.

From the king's privy purse, he purchased orchards and paddy fields between Pradung Krungkasem and the Samsen Canals, and began his garden construction. When the roads, some artificial lakes, canals, bridges and planting gardens were completed, a residence was then assembled—literally.

The first structure to rise from this lush sprawl was the Vimanmek Mansion. This mansion was His Majesty's summer palace, the Munthaturattanaroj Residence, dismantled from the Chonburi province and reassembled in Bangkok. In nine months, the work was done.

The garden is now the home of more than 20 restored buildings and halls, initially intended to house King Rama V's consorts, princesses



A STEP inside this majestic work of art is a walk into the glorious past of Siam.

SMART MUSIC LINK

Time for new tones.
<Check out this week's cool selection.>

The Chillout Project
House Sessions
Various Artists
Fade (Earth Mix)
by Solu Music feat. Kimbee
Keyword: fade

the project

This Left Feels Right
Bon Jovi
Livin' On A Prayer
Keyword: onaprayer

BON JOVI

ROD STEWART
As Time Goes By
THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

As Time Goes By...
The Great American Songbook Vol. II
Rod Stewart
As Time Goes By
Keyword: astimegoes

almostkindaacoustic2
a.k.a.

A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic 2
Various Artists
You & I Both by Jason Mraz
Keyword: youniboth

akustik natin
para-paraken

Akustik Natin
Various Artists
Kanlungan by Noel Cabangon/Buklod
Keyword: kanlungan

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TOWER RECORDS · VIDEO · DOWNS — Top 25 Albums of the Week — music 918

1 **As Time Goes By... The Great American Songbook Vol. II** — Rod Stewart — keyword: *astimegoes*
2 **A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic 2** — Various Artists — keyword: *youniboth*
3 **Long Ago Tomorrow** — Siobhan Pettit
4 **Tunog Acoustic** — Various Artists
5 **Michael Bublé** — Michael Bublé
6 **Piano Player** — Maksim
7 **Coverage** — Mandy Moore
8 **The Movie Album** — Barbra Streisand — keyword: *indmood4luv*
9 **Master Of Chant Chapter IV** — Gregorian — keyword: *clocks*
10 **Totally Bublé** — Michael Bublé — keyword: *imfalling4u*
11 **Popstar: A Dream Come True** — Sarah Geronimo
12 **Life For Rent** — Dido
13 **Bigotilyo** — Parokya Ni Edgar
14 **The Chillout Project Hose Sessions** — Various Artists — keyword: *fade*
15 **New York City** — The Peter Malick Group featuring Norah Jones
16 **Playlist** — Paolo Santos — keyword: *coffeecup*
17 **A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic** — Various Artists
18 **Akustik Natin** — Various Artists — keyword: *kanlungan*
19 **Acoustic Night Live** — Various Artists
20 **Remixes** — Mariah Carey
21 **This Left Feels Right** — Bon Jovi — keyword: *onaprayer*
22 **Nyoy Volante with Mannos** — Nyoy Volante
23 **Buddha's Pest** — The Mongols
24 **Heavier Things** — John Mayer — keyword: *splitscreen*
25 **It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook** — Rod Stewart

Other Available Ringtones: Mickey by Toni Basil (keyword: *mickey*)

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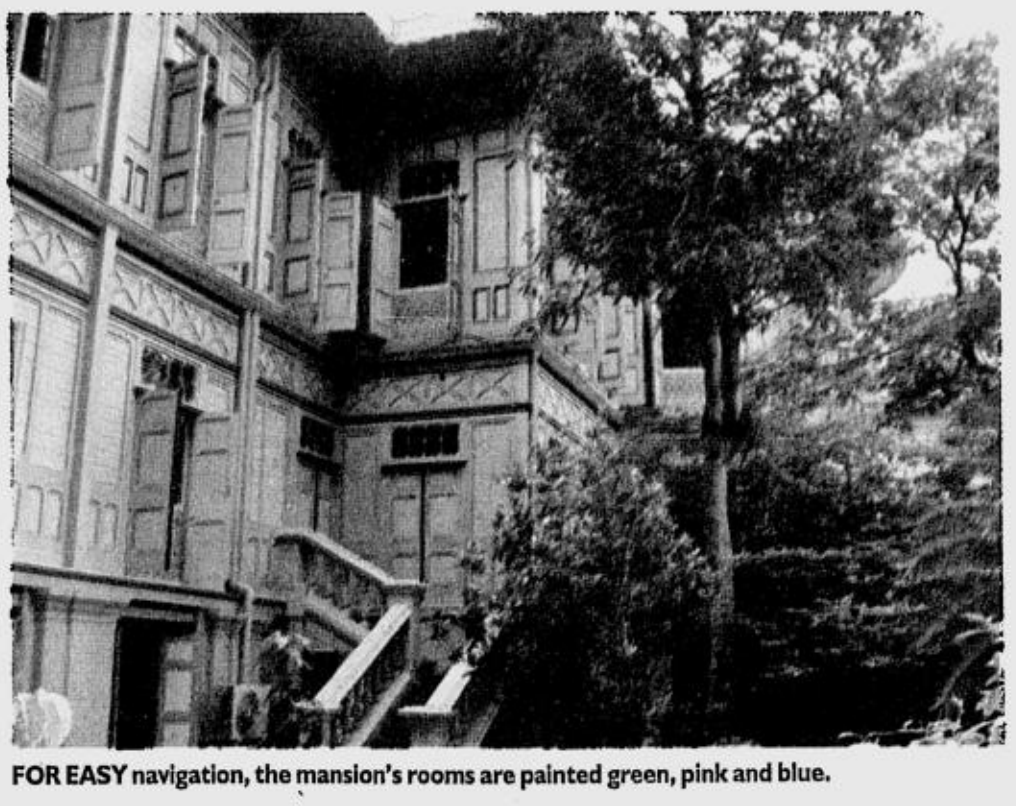
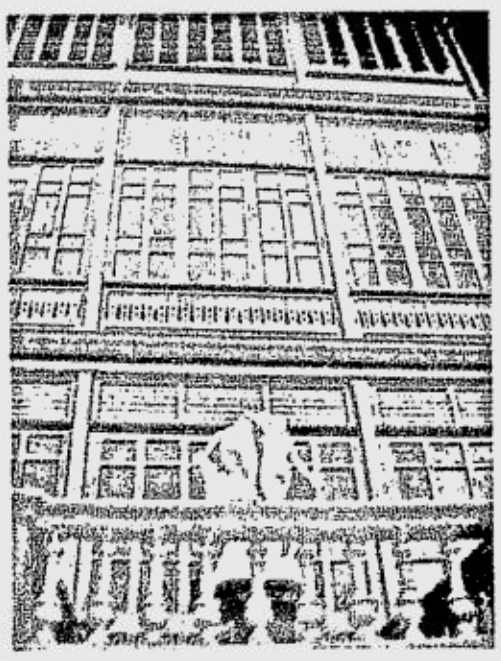
SMART Simply Amazing!

THE GUEST house at the rear of the mansion is 100 percent made of golden teakwood.

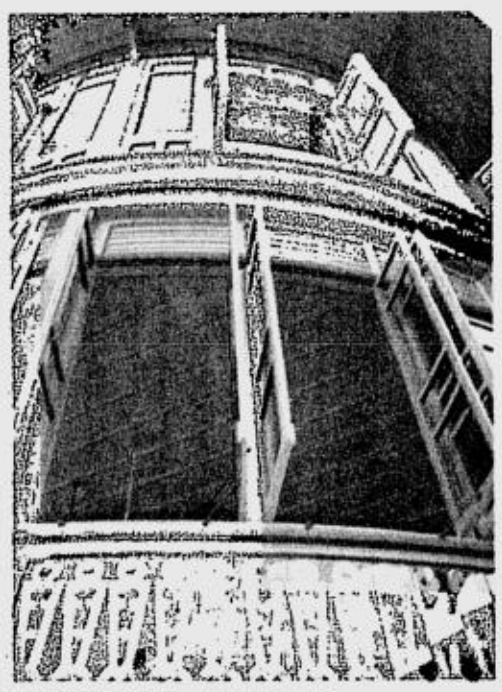


FOR EASY navigation, the mansion's rooms are painted green, pink and blue.

Getting to know the king's majestic mansion



MANY of the mansion's windows are now sealed for security purposes.



THE MANSION with 300 windows

THE GARDEN located at the back of the mansion is also the walkway toward the guest house.

ONE of the gardens surrounding the Vimanmek Mansion

From page H1

and other wives. These days, they serve as museums and exhibition halls.

One hall parades European and traditional coaches. There are wagons, dogcarts, ceremonial carriages, palanquins on another. One of the small carriages, the royal fire keeper, is so-called because it carries the torch used by the royal family for cremations of their kin.

Jewels of the past

The Vimanmek Mansion's intricate and elaborate structural design connotes a blend of western and Moorish influences.

But a step inside this majestic work of art, beyond the façade of the royal family's snapshots in western garbs, is a walk into the grandeur and glory that was ancient Siam.

A large, winding staircase by the front door has a huge mirror extending nearly from floor to ceiling. This was built so the royal family could view from the upper floor any intruder coming into the house.

The golden teakwood mansion is clearly the star of Dusit Palace. Only the ground floor is of brick and cement. The upper floors are made purely of golden teakwood. Teakwood pegs instead of nails are used to hold the building together.

The L-shaped house has three stories except for the octagonal tower, the four-story wing where King Rama V actually resided in.

The 31 function rooms, now called blue, green and pink rooms, display the late king's memorabilia, photographs, personal art and handicrafts.

The bedrooms and bathrooms have also been restored, including His Majesty's private bathroom that displays Thailand's first indoor bathtub.

On display, too, are objects from Europe, mostly gifts to the royal family, found in the silverware, ceramic, glassware and ivory display rooms.

In one room, an electric piano cheerfully plays a music composition by King Rama IX, the present monarch and grandson of King Rama V.

The Vimanmek Mansion finished construction about the time bicycles were first introduced to Thailand. It was said that during the early years of the Dusit Palace, there was often a royal bicycle procession from the Grand Palace to the Dusit Palace.

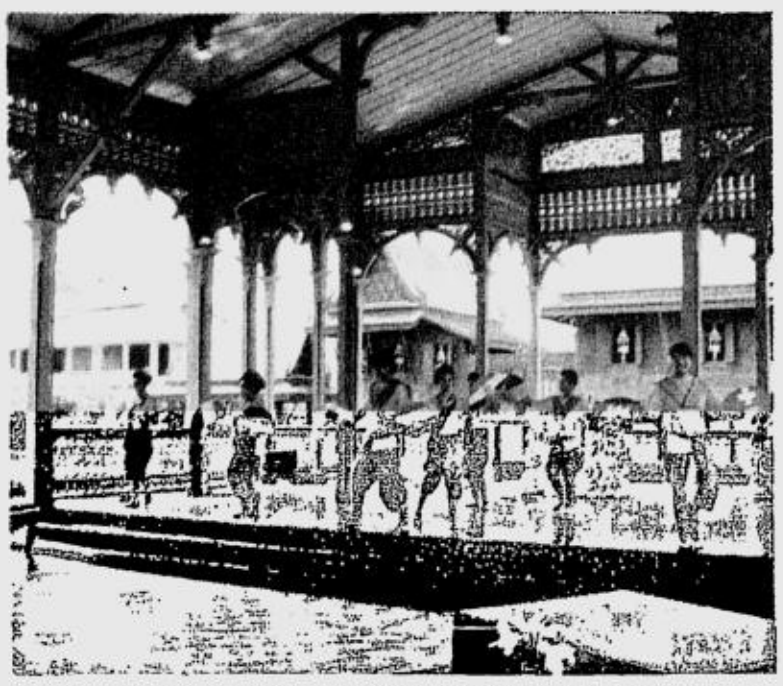
Unfortunately, the untimely death of King Rama V in 1910 brought closure to the Dusit Palace.

Over the years, his predecessors have attempted to reopen it if only briefly, but it wasn't until 1982 that Queen Sirikit rediscovered the mansion and worked for its restoration.

The Dusit Palace is now one of Thailand's major tourist attractions.

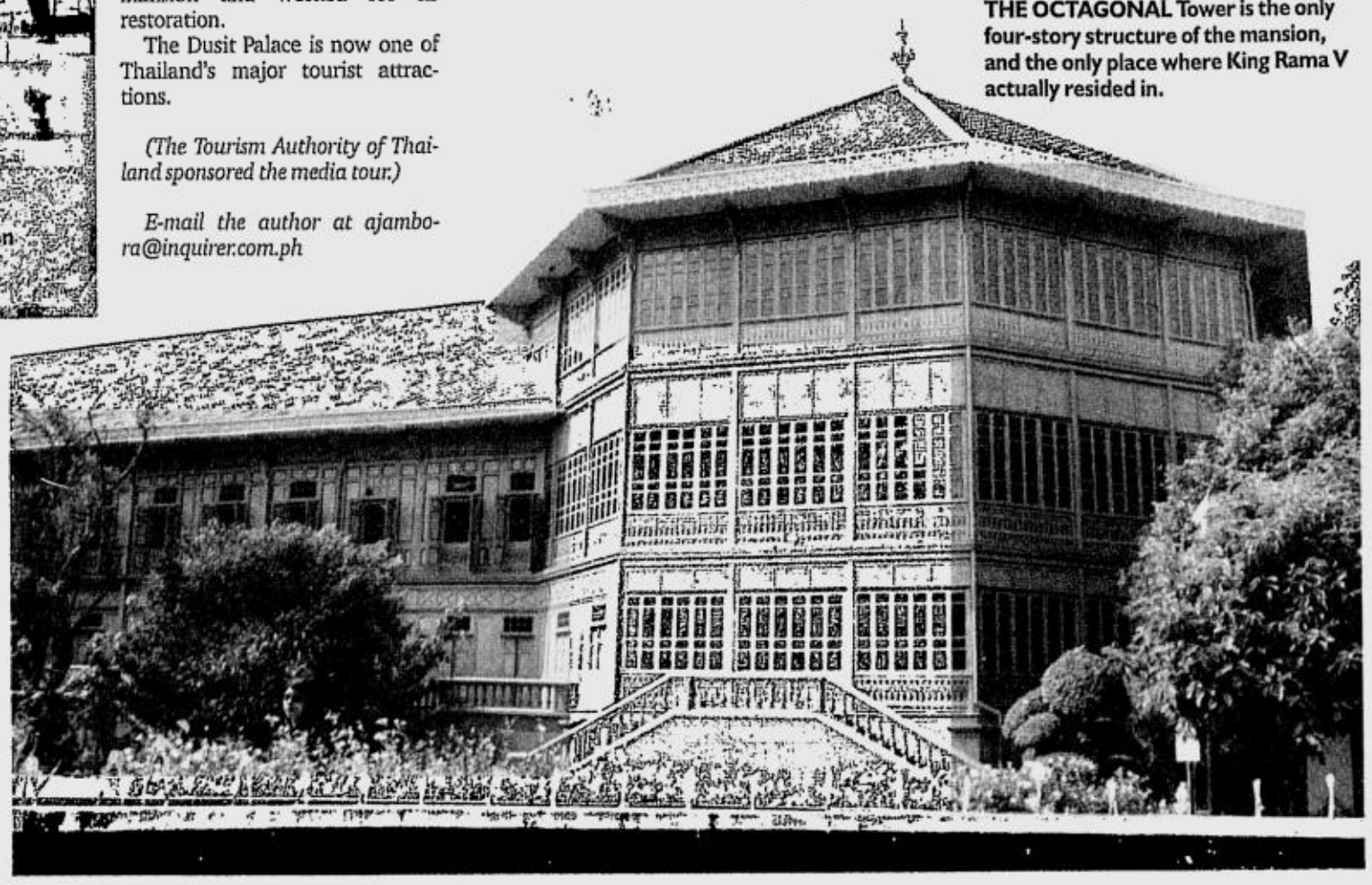
(The Tourism Authority of Thailand sponsored the media tour.)

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



THAI schoolchildren now perform traditional dances in this courtyard where the late King Rama V once loved entertaining his foreign guests.

MANMADE miniwaterfalls, artificial lakes and planted gardens make up the lush sprawl of this hideaway.



THE OCTAGONAL Tower is the only four-story structure of the mansion, and the only place where King Rama V actually resided in.

A book of poetry in English and Spanish

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

PAULINA **Constancia**, who dabbles in the arts with great success, has just scored another triumph.

She has tackled the violin with aplomb, gained international recognition with her nail art paintings and now she has published a book of bilingual poetry.

What inspired her to write this collection of delicate poems in Spanish and English remains a mystery, since all she says is that she loved the language she learned in Mexico, and drove herself to express all she had inside her heart and mind.

"Brazos Abiertos/Open Arms" was printed in Canada, where Paulina had her first launch. She brought a heap of copies to the Philippines and has had two launchings, one in Manila and another in Cebu.

The Manila launch was under the aegis of Instituto Cervantes, and with the presence of its director, **Javier Galvan.** Librarian **Angel Gonzalez Lara** was also there, plus **Mylene Abira Sazon** of Felta Multimedia, **Alberto Muyot** of Unicef, Canadian Consul **Francis Uy,** friends from Cebu like **Dominic** and **Alma Garcia,** and Filipino writers in Spanish **Hilario Zialcita** and **Benito Legarda,** who may be inspired to come up with books similar to Paulina's.

In Cebu, the launch was held at the newly inaugurated Marcelo Fernan Press Center, which has a well-appointed auditorium with excellent acoustics.

The program of readings was very well-planned. Paulina gave the rationale of her literary venture; poems were read by **Pablo Muñoz, Ma. Paz Navarro** and **Ma. Pilar Escaño;** and then the author herself read her own favorites.

Lots of prominent people attended the event, welcomed by Paulina's mother, civic leader **Vilma Cornejo Lee.** The book is dedicated to Paulina's late father, the heroic Judge **German Lee,** who, in a sea mishap some years back, helped save as many passengers as he could, until there were no more life jackets left.

She also thanked her Spanish professors **Domi Arteaga** in Mexico and Mrs. **Escaño** in Cebu, and **Jorge Gidi,** who helped her edit the text in Spanish.

When you read the poems, it becomes very clear that Paulina thought of them in Spanish first. The felicitous English translations are also hers.

* * *

It was a Mariachi Night for Cebu's La Chaine des Rotisseurs as it celebrated a fellowship in Tequila Joe's at the Ayala Entertainment Center.

Tony and **Grace Lozada, Cheling** and **Susan Sala** were the perfect hosts, making sure there were margaritas for everyone during the pre-dinner cocktails.

Michel and **Amparito Lhuillier** were around, just arrived from a trip to France. Like everyone else, they were in black from head to toe.

Lively music played all night, wines flowed and heaping dishes were served one after the other.

The chicken salad had plum dressing; the thick slabs of *lapulapu* were on a bed of *alugbati,* a popular spinach-like vegetable from the mountains of Cebu; and the baby back ribs on agave sauce just melted on one's mouth.

For dessert: The Bomb. This consisted of chocolate mousse, almond meringue, *gonoche* icing, a coating of dark chocolate and caramel sauce all over. Did anyone explode?

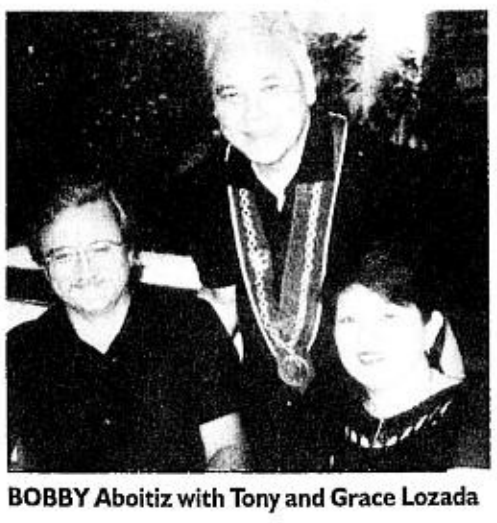
Amparito, as Madame la Baili, has announced that the next Chains dinner is on Dec. 12, to celebrate the anniversary in Cebu, and it will be at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.

The theme is White Christmas, which means white or silver gray for the ladies, plus diamonds and/or pearls, and tux for the men.

THE CEBU launch: Pablo Muñoz, author Paulina Constancia, Ma. Paz Navarro and Ma. Pilar Escaño

LADIES with the maracas at Mariachi Night: Cecilia Rodriguez, Amparito Lhuillier and Vivina Yrastorza

TERESING Mendezona and Joji Alonso



BOBBY Aboitiz with Tony and Grace Lozada

CHEESE/Wine Club Cebu president Dondi Joseph and Susan Sala

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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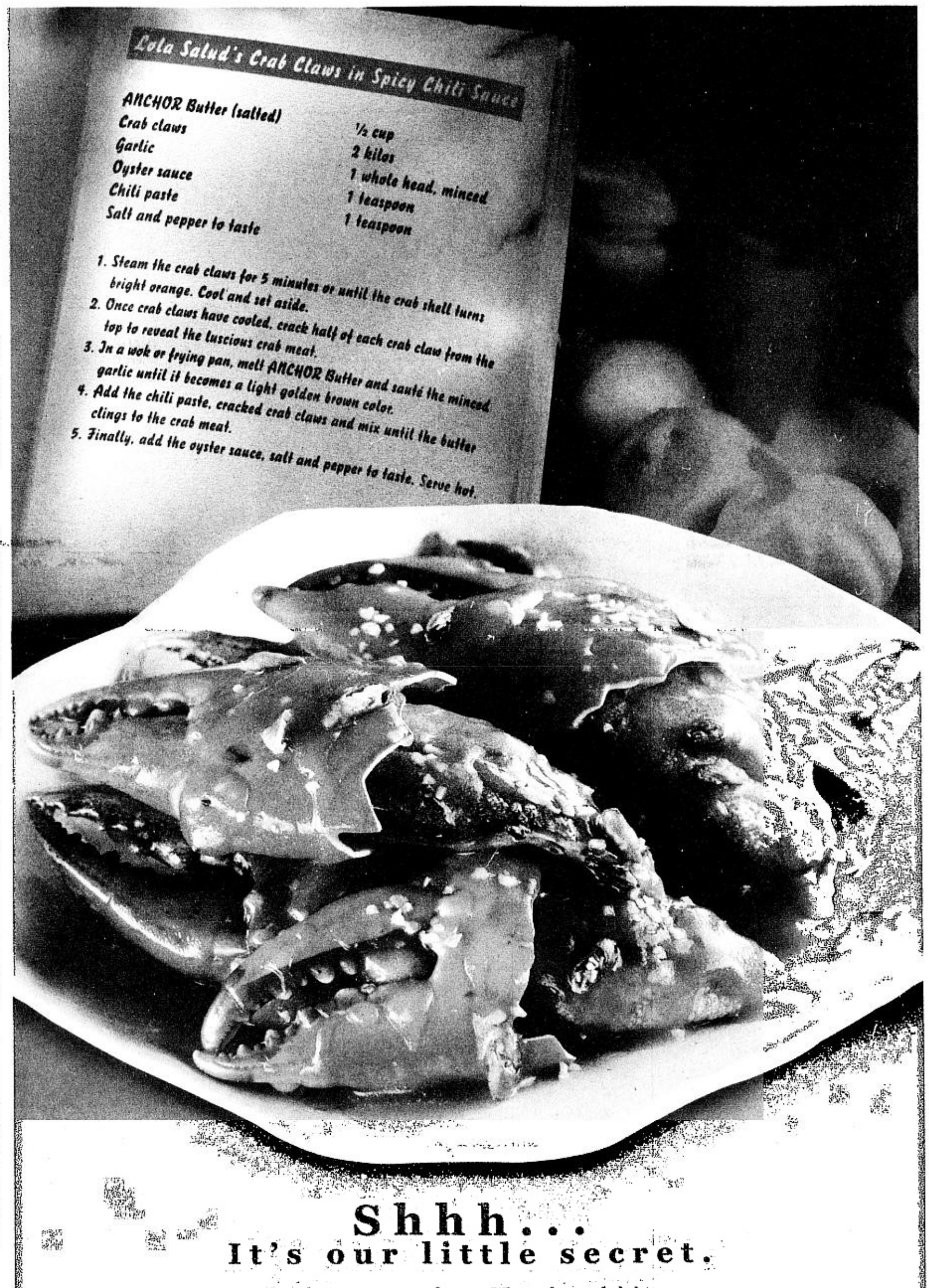


Basking in India's Festival of Lights

THE INDIAN Women's Club, Bharati, with **Amrita Mankad** as president and **Dimpi Singh** as vice, recently threw a marvelous party to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, for the Indian community.

It was a notable evening, with the children of members presenting Indian dances and costumes to the delight of the audience.

The guests were especially appreciative not only of the program and the raffle prizes, but of Hotel InterCon's buffet that featured varied curries and other Indian dishes and desserts.

After dinner, guests were invited to join in dancing to rock music, Bollywood-style. It was a great cultural experience.

***

French Ambassador **Renee Veyret** was this year's guest of honor at the Metrobank Young Painters Annual Exhibit.

Among other diplomats who came to view the artworks were Belgian Ambassador **Christiaan Tanghe**, Argentine Ambassador **Mario Schuff** and Romanian charge d' affaires **Doris Serban**.

Known for his fabulous collection of Chinese landscape paintings, Metrobank chair **George Ty**, along with Metrobank president **Antonio Abacan** and Metrobank Foundation executive director **Chito Sobrepeña**, welcomed the guests.

***

A big *ole!* to Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) for its successful fund-raising dinner-dance this year.

Kudos especially to FCCP president **Chloe Romulo Periquet**; director of ways and means **Tereret Liboro**; and her committee members **Fortune Ledesma**, **Nene Leonor** and **Aurora Sagaz**, wife of the Spanish Ambassador, who was overall adviser for the various regional dances that were performed this year.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Participants in the dances were Sagaz and her daughter **Alex**, Liboro, Periquet, **Nori Ongsiako**, **Nini Layug**, **Tesse Briones**, **Marylou Lovina**, **Charre Lim**, **Karen Macasaet**, **Erle Gamboa**, **Carrie Bautista**, **Chacha Camacho**, **Carla Santos**, **Baby Antonio**, **Marietta Homgren** and **Puring Galano**.

Emma Estrada and her group performed "Sentimientos de Mujer," while the Bayanihan Dance Group performed "Mantones de Seda."

The last number was "Andalucia," with FCCP members parading in colorful *mantones*.

***

Venezuelan music came to the fore with the performance of the Huascar Barradas Trio Acustico at the GSIS Theater, which **Lulu Castañeda** described as a performance with loads of testosterone!

With **Huascar Barradas** as flutist, **Elvis Martinez** on the double bass, **Jorge Polanco** on the *bandola* (a guitar-like musical instrument with four strings) and last but not least, the clear, pure voice of **Cecilia Toda**, the group regaled the guests with Venezuelan folk songs that throbbed with the sounds and colors of the South American continent and its rich culture.

We are lucky to have Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** and her staff, who are working double-time to introduce the culture of Venezuela in Manila.

***

One of the events sponsored by Unesco for the Filipino Heritage Month was a kite exhibit that featured paintings of churches and other World Heritage Sites here in the Philippines.

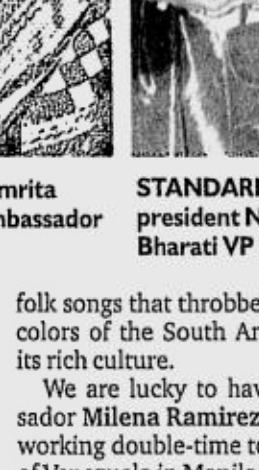
The final event also saw Moro *vintas* sailing in Manila Bay courtesy of Zamboanga Mayor **Maria Clara Lobregat** and a fireworks display generously donated by **Ricky Crisostomo**.

Guests of honor were Olongapo Mayor **Kate Gordon** and Mr. and Mrs. **Howard Benton** of Unilever, one of the festival sponsors.

BHARATI president **Amrita Mankad** and Indian Ambassador **Nevrekha Sharma**

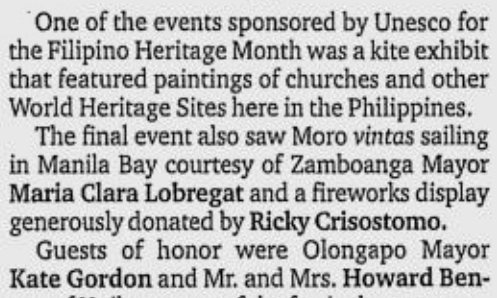
PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

STANDARD Chartered Bank president Navneet Singh and Bharati VP Dimpi Singh



AMBASSADOR to Taipei Ernesto Galvez

MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique Hubbard



AUSTRIAN Ambassador Christian Krepela, Irmgard Krepela and Thai Ambassador Busba Bunnag

BELGIAN Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe with Marilyn Collette of Asian Development Bank

ARGENTINIAN Ambassador Mario Schuff, Metrobank chair George Ty and renowned sculptor Ramon Orlina

HOWARD Belton, Mayor Hadia Nur Ana and Olongapo Mayor Kate Gordon

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Manansala is the rage at Sotheby's

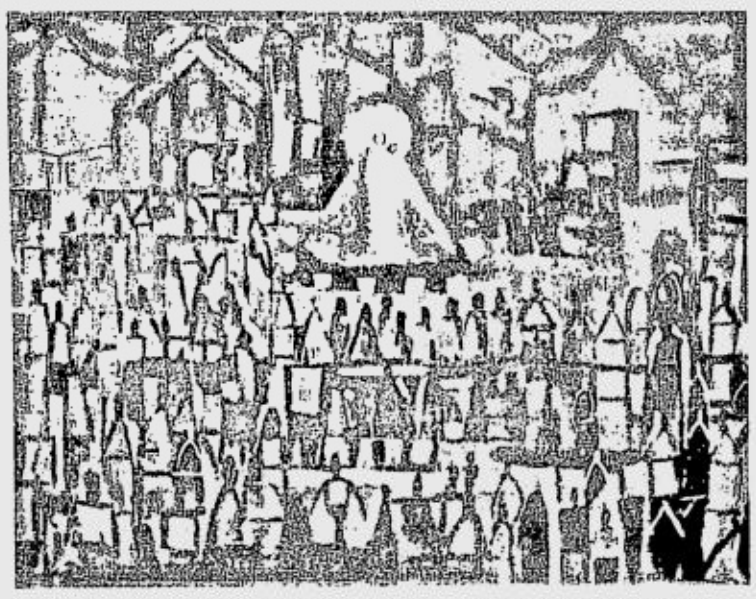
Works by Filipinos have exceeded estimates in the biannual auction

By Kitty Go
Contributor

ASIAN art scene observers have commented that Philippine art has no other buyers but Filipinos. However, in the last two years, Sotheby's has noticed growing interest and increased sales in Filipino paintings at every Southeast Asian painting sale held twice a year in Singapore. Particularly dramatic this season were the sale of pieces by Vicente Manansala (1910-1981).

Clearly, the plans of Kim Camacho, Sotheby's representative in Manila, seem to be coming into fruition. One of her aims was to increase the international visibility of Filipino paintings when she set up the office in 2001.

"FAMILY at a Meal" (1975), despite being a later work, is "overall... a very good painting" and sold for almost three times its estimate because of the subject matter and use of color.

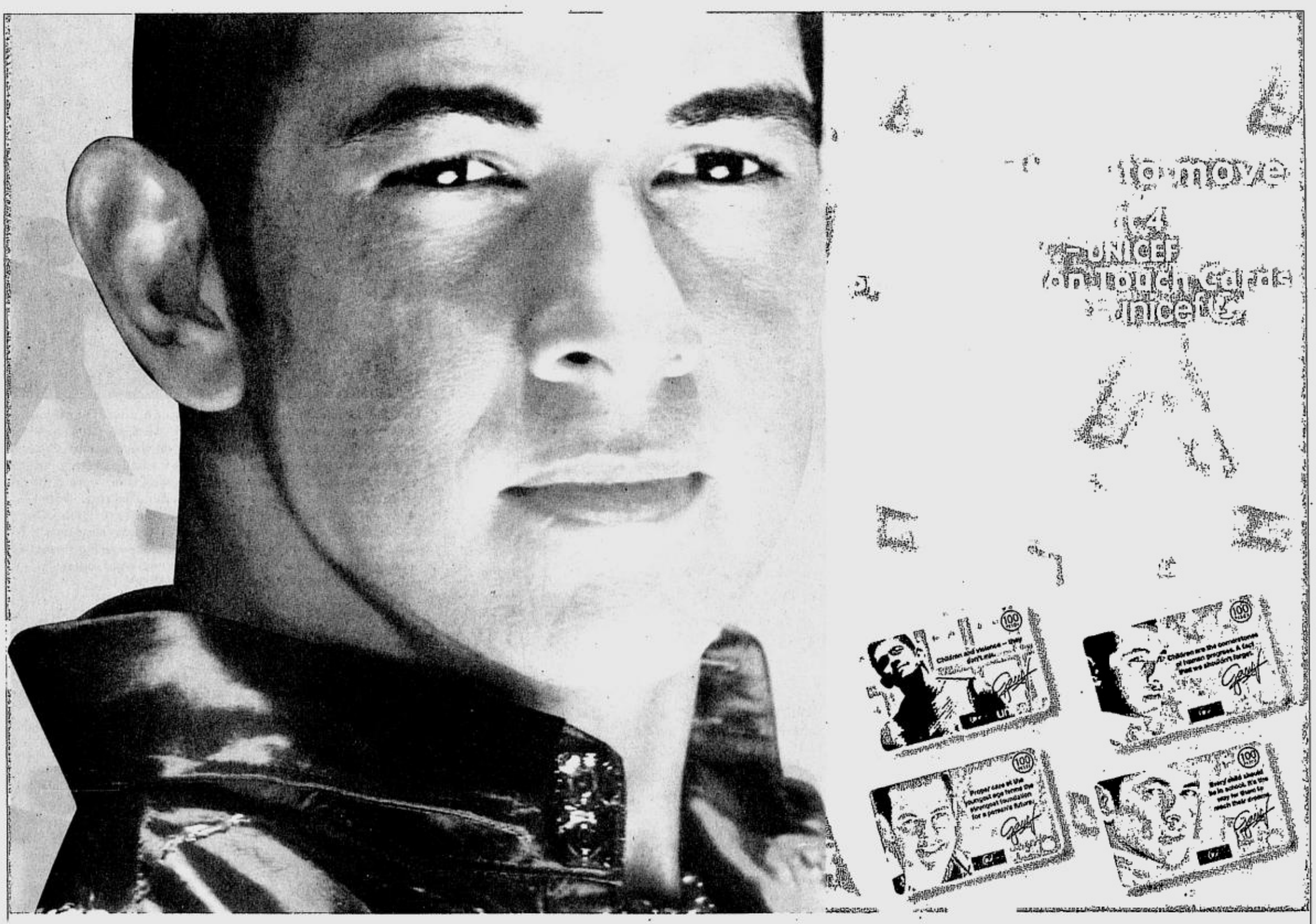


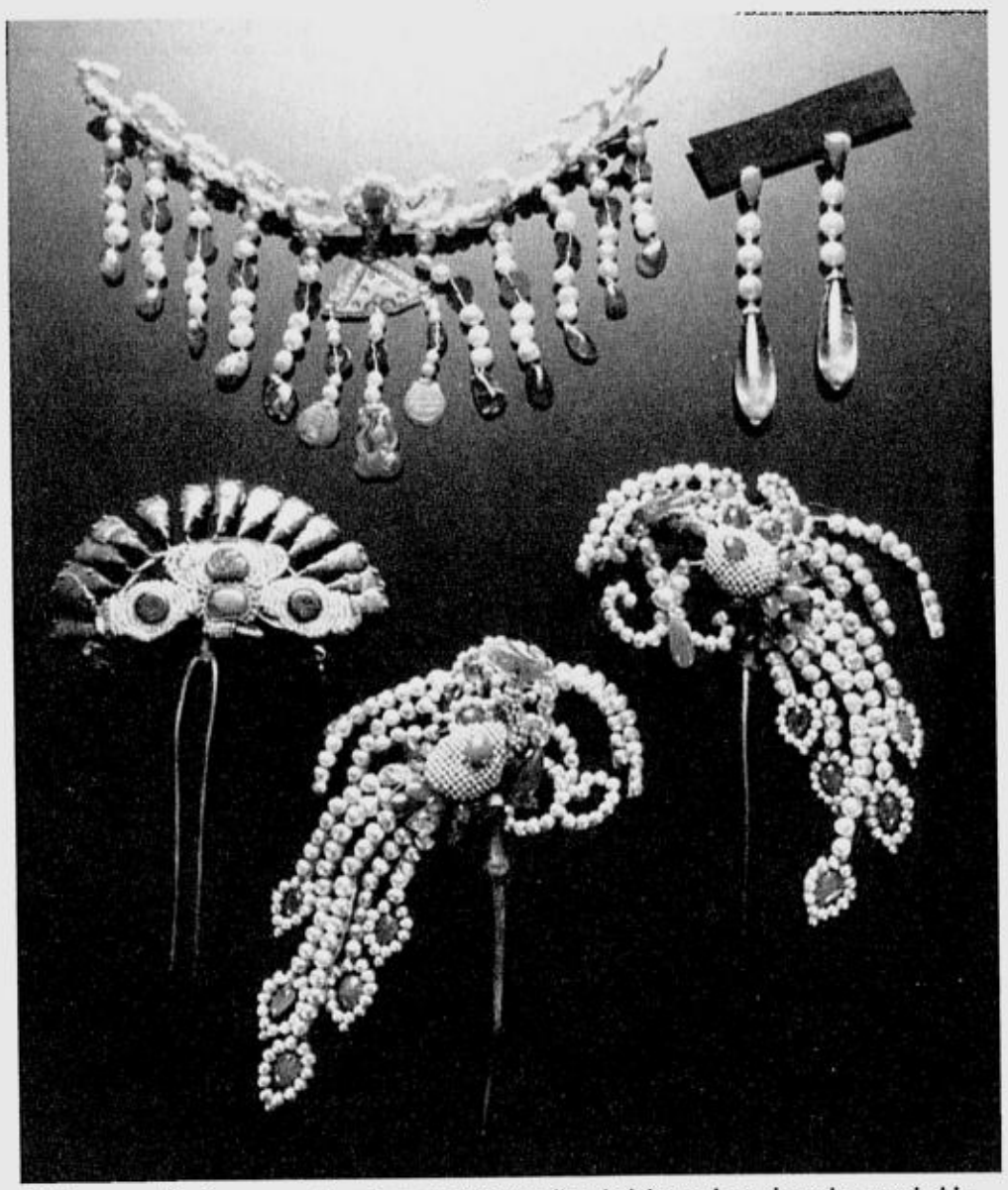
THOUGH "Prusisyon" (1953) epitomizes his work from this period and in style and composition is similar to his famous Jeepneys, it did not sell at an estimate of $33,000 to $44,000.

"[Filipino paintings] already had a market for a while," explains Mok Kim Chuan, a specialist on Southeast Asian paintings and deputy director of Sotheby's China and Southeast Asia, "We have taken a step up by having a Manila office and being closer to the client. Rather than restricting sales to the local market, it is growing steadily from six to seven pieces [in every sale] when we opened the office, to now about 30 paintings. Business is good and it will carry over."

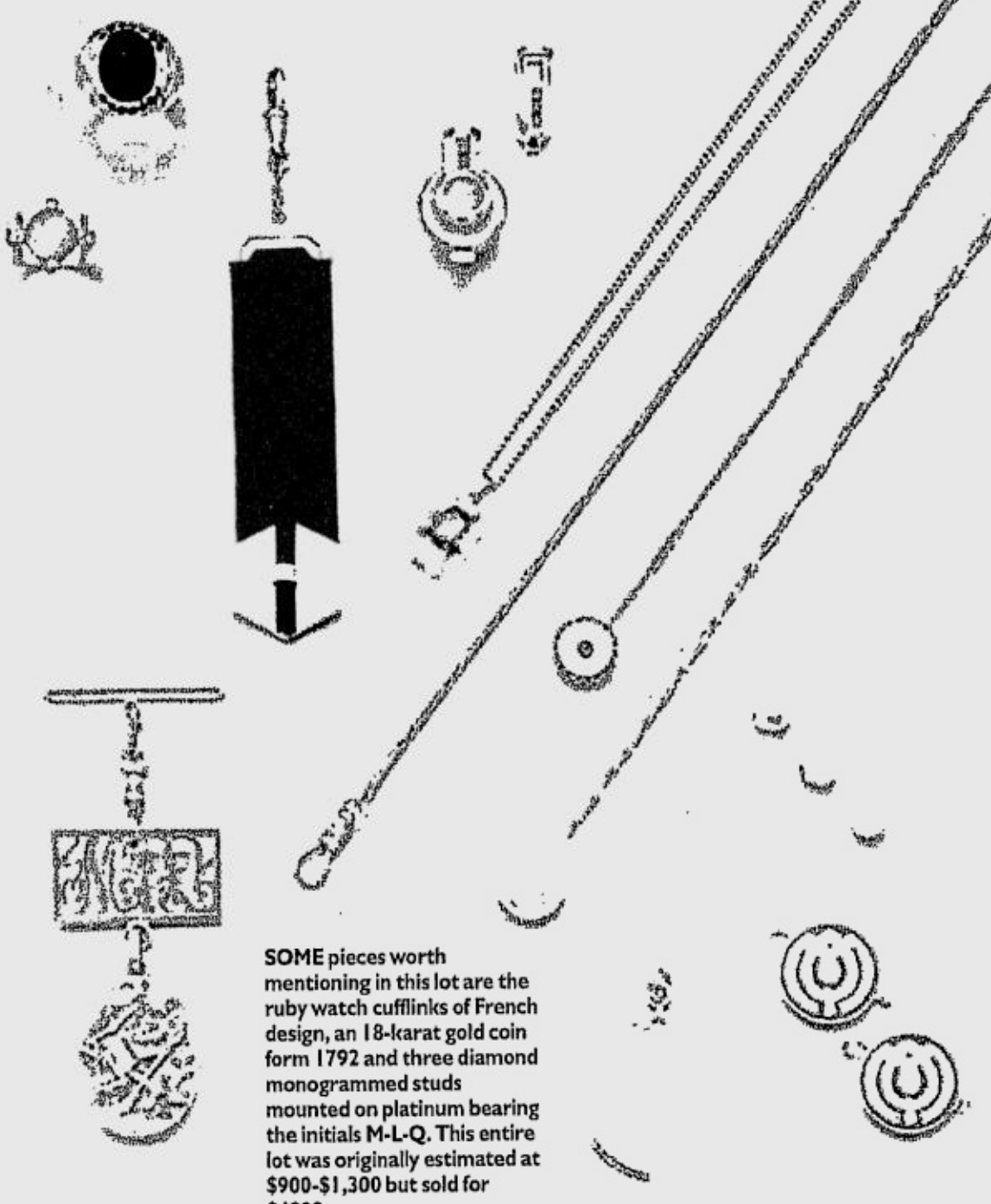
The interest of Indonesian buyers has also contributed to the demand for Philippine art, Sotheby's says.

MANANSALA/12





THIS group of hair ornaments and a pair of tourmaline, jadeite and pearl earrings probably cannot be replicated today. The ornate settings of pearls combined with jadeite, tourmalines and coral on 18-karat gold mountings have been fashioned into uniquely Chinese icons: a fan and a couple of phoenixes. Originally estimated at $5,000-$7,000, this rare set went for $13,000.



SOME pieces worth mentioning in this lot are the ruby watch cufflinks of French design, an 18-karat gold coin form 1792 and three diamond monogrammed studs mounted on platinum bearing the initials M-L-Q. This entire lot was originally estimated at $900-$1,300 but sold for $4800.

The values of history

WHEN the financial markets were at a low last year, the art and jewelry markets were hopping, reason being the stock market was not a sound place for investment. Now that worldwide stock markets are performing beyond expectations, the art and jewelry markets are doing better than ever, this time because people have money to spend.

Jewelry has always been a popular investment because of its portability and wearability. Gemstones are obviously easier to unload than say a gigantic red steel Alexander Calder from 1968 measuring 16 x 20.5 ft sold by Christie's for $5.83 million. Or any other form of art for that matter.

The past few seasons have seen a rise in sales of colored diamonds in Asia because, as many Chinese ladies have told me, "You can only have so many whites..." or "After whites, what else is there to buy?"

As Sotheby's showed in its last Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite sale, "Colored diamonds fared strongly in this auction as a blue diamond ring and a pink diamond ring became the top two lots sold," commented Quek Chin Yeow, head of Jewelry Department of Sotheby's Hong Kong. "There was international participation, either in the salesroom, in the book or on the telephone throughout the sale but it was primarily dominated by Asian buyers."

Historical

Several lots from two historical Asian figures came on the market in that auction, one from the wedding dowry of Madame Chao Chang Huaitung (1910-2002), the daughter-in-law of a high-ranking Chinese official in the Qing Dynasty, and the other from former president of the Philippine Commonwealth, Manuel Luis Quezon (1878-1944).

In terms of intrinsic value, the pieces were not exceptional but many of Madame Chao's and Mr. Quezon's collections could not be replicated today such as a jadeite and tourmaline Qing court necklace, which is very similar to one displayed at the National Palace Museum in Taipei or delicate and intricate Qing dynasty hair ornaments of freshwater pearls, coral, jadeite.

There is reason to believe that history, the rarity and irreplaceable value of the goods and celebrity ownership contributed to the high prices paid for these lots. The Qing court necklace went for over five times its estimate.

The Quezon lots had a historical travel clock to commemorate the first flight of PanAm from the USA to Manila. There were delightful stick pins, elegant gold cigarette cases from Shreve and Co., a glamorous gold and diamond official belt buckle and refined gold pens. "One thing I can say about Quezon," said a well-known Philippine historian, "he was a bastard but he had good taste..."

Seven times

Although, according to Mr. Quek Chin Yeow, the Quezon lots were all conservatively estimated, they went for up to seven times their estimates. Lot 685, which included lighters, pen knives, buckles and pens in 14-karat gold, some bearing the presidential crest, were estimated to go for $1,300-$2,000 but went for double at $4,800.

Five gold cigarette and cigar cases in another lot were estimated to bring in $2,300-$2,900 but sold for $3,300.

Stick pins in various gemstones such as beryl, pearls, diamonds and sapphires plus a pince-nez worn by Quezon in Fotonews in 1937, all in lot 688, were estimated to bring in $900-$1,300 but sold for $2,400.

Two retractable clocks from 1905 and 1909 and a square locket with a sapphire catch were estimated at $770-$1,200 but went for a surprising $4,500.

Among the three small time pieces in lot 689, the most historical must be the miniature traveling clock designed as a retractable envelope. It commemorates the first PanAm flight from the USA to Manila and is postmarked the inaugural flight date, January 5, 1939. This lot of three was estimated at $900-$1,300 but was sold for a whopping $9,300.

Kitty Go

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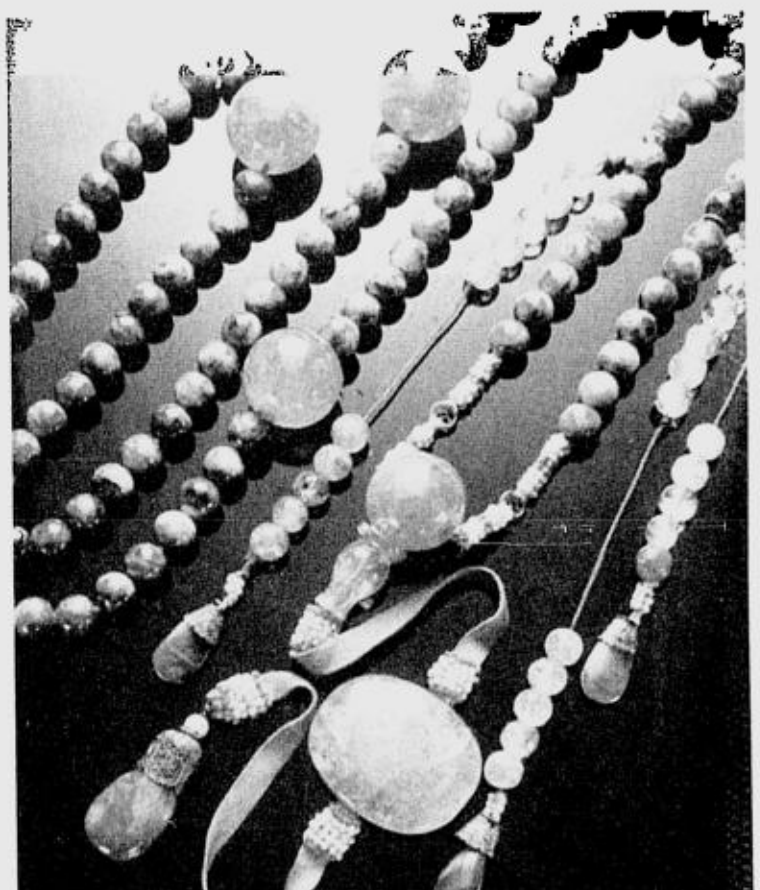


THIS jadeite and tourmaline necklace was worn over Qing Dynasty court robes as late as the Manchu period, the reign of Pu-yi (the last emperor). This necklace was worn only over the most formal robes by the highest members of court, government and the military, including the emperor. Men wore a single strand while women wore as many as three. A necklace like this has origins as a Buddhist rosary with 108 beads made of tourmaline, jadeite, amber, gold, or turquoise. Only the emperor and empress had the honor of wearing large pearls. This piece, as dramatically complementary to a black evening gown today (it hangs in front and at the back) as it was with royal robes, was estimated at $8,000-$11,000 but sold for $59,000.

"FISH Vendor" (1955) is an early work of Vicente Manansala that illustrates his interpretation of Cubism.

Manansala is the rage at Sotheby's

From page 11

Manansala madness

Manansala belonged to a group of "neo-Realists" who established modernism in Philippine art. Together with Hernando Ocampo, Romeo Tabuena, Cesar Legazpi, Victor Oteyza and Ramon Estrella, he depicted reality in radical, graphic and cubic styles that deviated from the softness and realism art patrons were used to then.

Earlier Manansala works usually had patterned backgrounds in which subjects practically got lost. This is the style of "Fish Vendor" (1955), which sold for $4,000 in the last auction. The star of the Filipino painting sale was "Family at a Meal" (1975), which is 37" x 40" and depicts a peasant family with heads bowed down in prayer before a meal. Estimated at $36,000 to $47,000, the picture sold for $100,000.

Mok comments, "Overall, this is a very good painting of a very popular subject matter with collectors, the family unit." This painting may become the yardstick for the sales of future Manansalas and set a precedent for Filipino works at auction.

The good years

On collecting Manansalas, Mok says that he "cannot tell collectors what to buy because art is very subjective but generally, early works are very sought after."

NENA Saguil's "Newsboy" (1949) sold for almost double its estimate. Collectors vigilantly keep an eye out for figurative Saguils such as this, as they are very hard to come by.

Manansala's works from the '50s are hard to come by, but the works from the '70s and '80s are more colorful, more decorative and easier to understand.

Historian, educator and INQUIRER columnist Ambeth Ocampo says, "In his later years, like Amorsolo and other successful artists, (Manansala) started churning out formula pictures that sold well. It's a pity though because in his last years, even his empty canvases were 'reserved' by both collectors and speculators. At this point, one would think he could paint whatever he wanted instead of catering to the market. I mean, Picasso could doodle on toilet paper and it would sell... He didn't need to cater to the market."

Meanwhile, the auction house continues to successfully sell Amorsolos, Hidalgos and Anita Magsaysay-Hos every season. It has gradually been selling works by Benedicto Cabrera (that's Bencab to you and me) and Nena Saguil, "if we find any good ones, particularly early work," says Mok.

In this sale, Saguil's "Newsboy" (1949) sold for $25,000, far exceeding the estimate of $10,000 to P15,000. Certainly a select segment of Philippine art has found its niche.

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com

Terrazas de Punta Fuego Beach Club Launched with Sunset Party

A glorious Batangas sunset signaled the start of "Terrazas Sunset", the party that formally opened the newly completed Terrazas de Punta Fuego beach club.

Co-developers Landco Pacific Corporation's Alfed Xerez-Burgos, Jr. and Roxaco Land Corporation's Pedro Roxas, together with the Pedrosa family as landowners proudly led lot owners, Club Punta Fuego members and their guests around the world-class facilities after the blessing and Mass officiated by Monsignor Augusto Pedrosa.

As the sun went down, the club, built as a cluster of structures on different levels, was bathed in the sunset's golden colors. When darkness descended on the Nasugbu coastline, soft, mood lighting highlighted the club's distinct Mediterranean architecture fused with Asian touches. The swimming pool glowed like a jewel with its deep aqua shimmering waters while multicolored flowers floated on its glass-like surface. The family-friendly free-form infinity pool interestingly incorporates a lap pool, adult pool and kiddie pool within. The pool's waters cascade to a lower level into five individual bubblers and filled the air with the soothing sound of constant, flowing water.

After Club Punta Fuego's General Manager, the affable Ignacio Gandarias, formally welcomed the guests, the Tribe of Levi set the tone and pace of the party with their distinct acoustic renditions while guests leisurely sipped the special offerings from the line-up of Premier Wines and Spirits. This was also the chance for Club Punta Fuego to introduce the Terrrazas de Punta Fuego signature cocktail, Terrazas Sunset, a refreshing, heady mix of citrus juices, grenadine and the ultra-premium Patron Tequila.

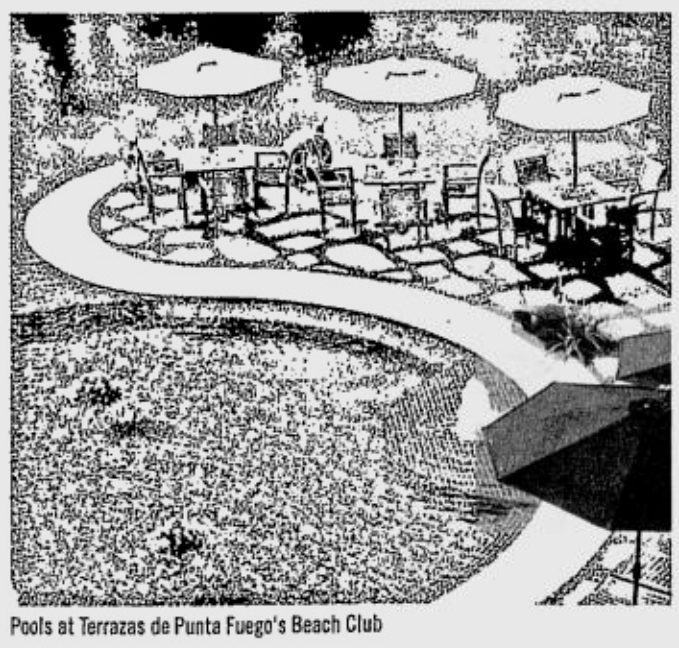
A soft breeze blew out the day's warm air as guests spilled all over the facility finding their comfortable niches in the cabañas, restaurant, the boardwalk, tables by the pool and under the trees by the beach, and the game room. Guests who swam in the inviting warm waters of Nasugbu Bay made a beeline for the spacious locker rooms where they could relax in the tastefully designed sitting area furnished with Asian furniture and decorative pieces, take a shower and change to their tropical attire for a night out at the beach. They came as families with some tables occupied by four generations. It was heartwarming to see scenes of dads taking photos of their cute little tykes posing on top of decorative stone turtles that spew water into the individual bubblers while grandma looked on with amusement.

Buffet tables laden with sumptuous treats stood beside large paelleras filled with different types of paellas. As the crowd settled with their favorite drinks and imbibed more of the Terrazas Sunset, the Tribe of Levi brought the party to the next level with their selection of current R & B hits, rap and hip hop music which brought the young ones to their feet. Those who were not content to listen to the band's vocalists tested their vocal prowess in the KTV room where groups vied for their 15 minutes of fame.

Huddled in one cabaña with a sweeping view of the party scene was the group of Pedro Roxas with wife Gina and friends Patxi and Sofia Elizalde, Melissa Elizalde, Carlos Elizalde, Patsy Zobel, Ramon Arnaiz and Alonzo Halsster. Seated around tables by the pool was the Pedrosa family with brothers Atty. Ramon, Mr. Carlitos, Ambassador Alberto with his wife popular columnist, Carmen Pedrosa and sister, Lita Pedrosa Hidalgo as well as Jaime Legarda and Jaime Romero Salas. Mayor of Nasugbu, Raymund Apacible with his charming wife, Carla sat together with the top officials of Nasugbu and Punta Fuego's barangay leaders. The Terrazas Beach Club architect, Meloy Casas of the Recio + Casas architectural team, was seen with his brother, Ricky Casas, and daughter, Paula. The Fil Barcelo team, Club Punta Fuego's management company, came in full force headed by President and CEO John Cogul, Food & Beverage Director, Alfredo Roca, and Regional Marketing Director, Melotte Mondelo.

Buyers of Terrazas de Punta Fuego lots can be nominated for an associate membership in Club Punta Fuego, membership that allows them to use the club facilities in both Peninsula and Terrazas de Punta Fuego.

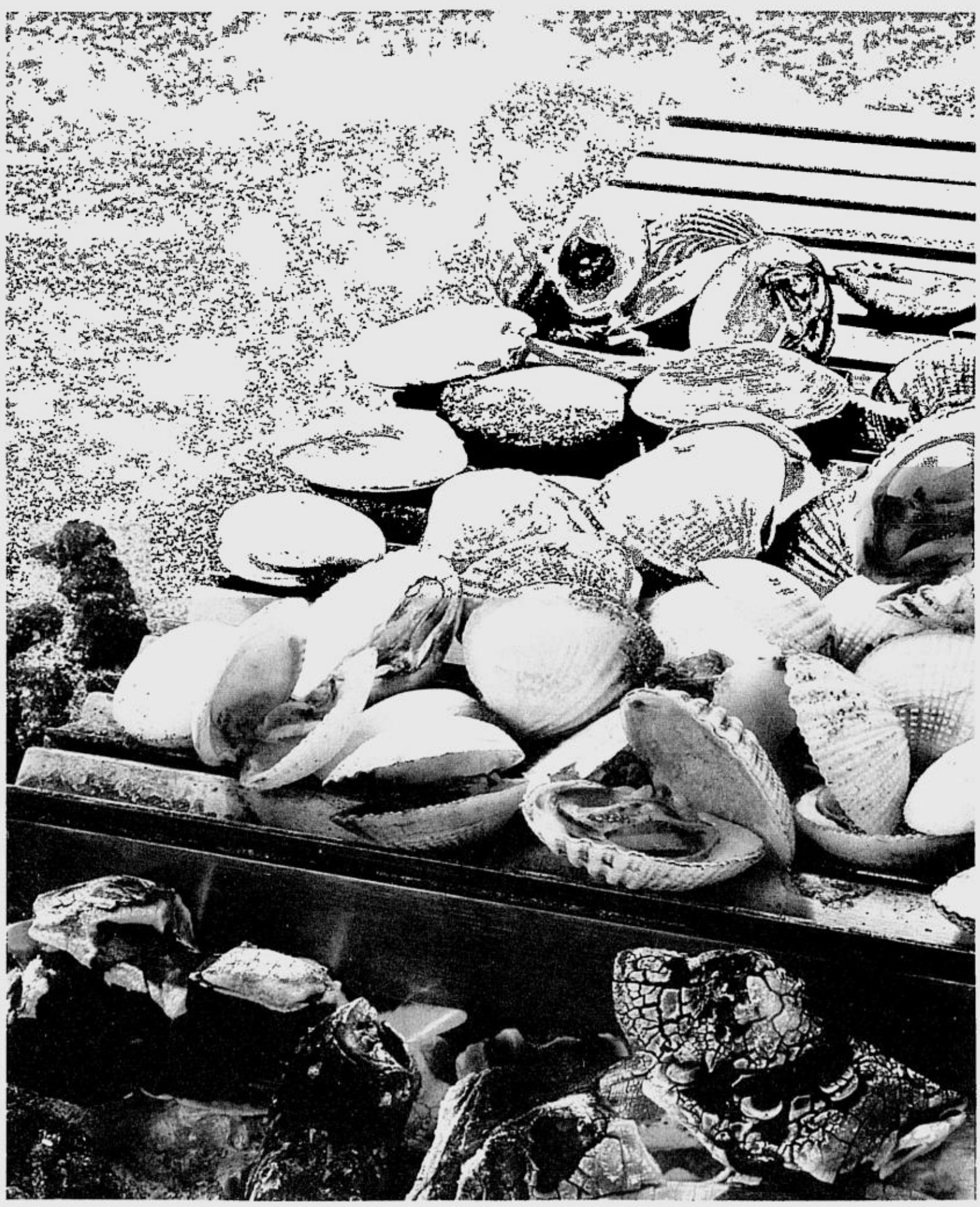
The Terrazas Sunset party conveyed in very distinct terms the essence of what Terrazas de Punta Fuego is all about---fun, family, home, relaxation, building memories of lazy days in the sun and fun-filled afternoons watching the breathtaking Batangas sunset by the beaches of Nasugbu in the company of loved ones.



Pools at Terrazas de Punta Fuego's Beach Club

L-R Mr. Carlos Pedrosa, Atty. Ramon Pedrosa, Ambassador Alberto Pedrosa, Ms. Lita Pedrosa- Hidalgo, Msgr. Augusto Pedrosa.

L-R Carlos Elizalde, Melissa Elizalde, Sofia Zobel Elizalde, Gina Tambunting Roxas, Patsy Zobel, Alonzo Halsster



Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Jr., President and CEO, Landco Pacific Corporation, Alfredo Roca, F&B Director, Club Punta Fuego, Patxi Elizalde, Santi Elizalde

L-R Mayor Raymund Apacible, Carla Apacible, Atty. Ramon Pedrosa, Mrs. Fely Pedrosa, Pedro Roxas, President and CEO, Roxaco Land Corporation, Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Jr., President and CEO, Landco Pacific Corporation, Msgr. Augusto Pedrosa

Pat Villano, Vice President, Punta Fuego, Francisco Alipit, Mayor Raymund Apacible, Miguel Puyat, Francis Ceballos, EVP and COO, Landco Pacific Corporation

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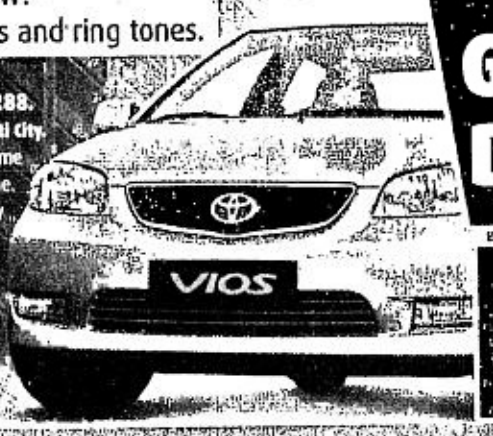

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Kanlungan	Noel Cabangon	TONE KANLUNGAN
Unwell	Matchbox 20	TONE UNWELL
Perfect	Simple Plan	TONE PERFECT2
Mr. Suave Version 2	Parokya Ni Edgar	TONE MRSUAVE2
Bakit Ka Ilyak	Jeremiah	TONE BAKITIYAK
Perfect	True Faith	TONE PERFECT
Shake Ya Tailfeather	Nelly And P. Diddy	TONE TAILF
Maybe	Enrique Iglesias	TONE MAYBE
Have A Little Faith In Me	Mandy Moore	TONE FAITHIN
Get Busy	Sean Paul	TONE GETBUSY
Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
St. Anger	Metallica	TONE ANGER
Ignition	R. Kelly	TONE IGNI
Can't Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
Thola Thoing	R. Kelly	TONE THOLA
Why Not	Hilary Duff	TONE WHYNOT
If You're Not The One	Daniel Bedingfield	TONE IFYOURNOT
Heart Shaped Box	Evanescence	TONE HEARTBOX
Asereje	Las Ketchup	TONE ASEREJE
I Want You	Thalia & Fat Joe	TONE IWANTU
(There's Got To Be) More To Life	Stacie Orrico	TONE MORETO
Do I Need A Reason	D' Sound	TONE DOINEED
Iris	Googoo Dolls	TONE IRIS
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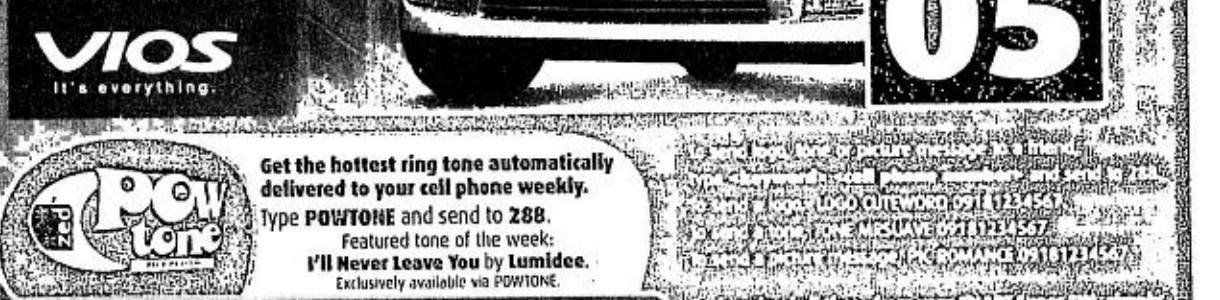

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SONNY and Tootsy Angara (nee Mondonedo) marry Igorot-style.

ANGARA- MONDONEDO NUPTIALS

Igorot wedding for 'mountain girl'

By Maurice Arcache

IT was definitely a memorable celebration—an Igorot-style exchange of "I dos." Yes, *palanggas,* an Igorot wedding ceremony was held at the home of the bride's mother, environmentalist and free soul Baboo Mondonedo in Pinsao Proper, Baguio, deep in the middle of a forest. The guests went down a narrow path following the smell of burning meat and the sounds of gongs and drums.

The Ifugao celebration started on a Friday evening and continued the whole day of Saturday. Three pigs and a cow were butchered and roasted, while a *mambunong* (shaman) officiated in the ceremony, which included the drinking of rice wine, prayers of blessing for the couple and reading of the (pig's) bile. The reading, according to the *mambunong* was important. "The couple will be blessed, as seen by the full-bile, and they will have a baby girl."

Simple but good food

The wedding menu was a far cry from what a hotel or restaurant will offer, but the food was down to earth and quite good. Starting with boiled *kamote* and *gabi*, it included roasted pork and a whole calf, red mountain rice, *pinapaitan,* boiled meat, common Igorot fare. Also in the menu were fresh *rabong* (banana shoots) *lumpia,* shrimp *sotanghon* salad with wansuy (coriander) Thai-style, the healthy-yummy steamed *la-*

IGOROT/ J2

A TOAST to a happy life. Sonny and Tootsy having a taste of the mountain rice wine especially prepared for their wedding by Mountain Province natives.

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For me, "pigging" out on pork is a no-no.

No to pork and the fats that come with it. For a trim figure, I eat lots and lots of Century Tuna, the low-fat, high-protein Supermeat. Like I always say, you don't have to eat less, you just need to eat right.

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GUESTS included Peggy Austria, Dolly Santos and Helen and Oscar Cadelina

THE PALS. Sonny with Teddy Manotoc and buddy Derrick Santos in their Igorot *tapis*

THE ANGARAS. Ana, Sonny and youngest sister Alexandra

IT'S THE SENATOR'S TURN. Ed Angara doing his share as the father of the groom.

GLAM lady Baby Angara sways to the beat of the gongs before the ceremonies.

Igorot wedding for 'mountain girl'

MOTHER and daughter. Baboo and Tootsy wearing the typical Igorot *tapis* wedding outfit

From page J1

pu-lapu, plus tons of tempura of mushroom, squash flowers, spinach and tofu. There was *sapin-sapin, tapuy* (rice wine), sugar cane wine and other beverages on the table-full of drinks.

The Baguio Country Club sent three huge cakes, with the the to-die-for truffle cake, a big favorite at the affair, *palanggas.*

It rained, making the nights even colder and which was seen as a blessing in the Cordilleras. But Baboo anticipated this so she had a huge tent erected, which made for a cozier ambiance.

Included in the program was "Advice from the Elders" and the newlyweds heard from, among others, 84-year-old Cecile Afable, editor of the Baguio Midland Courier. She said, "After four years the romance will be gone" but (the couple) "could enjoy raising their kids together, bathing their children and planning their future."

Mike Kiwas, who celebrated recently with his wife his 50th wedding anniversary, gave words of wisdom. Francis Dangiwan of Mt. Province said, "Baboo and Tootsy (the bride) are adopted by us and this union also brings the Angaras." Gov. Rocky Molintas of Benguet wished them "blessings and lots of animals." For the Igorots, *palanggas,* animals are signs of prosperity. Des Bautista said, "The secret of my marriage of 35 years was because my wife only saw the good in me (and ignored my negative qualities)."

Baboo decided to host the fantastic *cañao* celebration simply because it was fitting, she being an adopted daughter of Benguet.

Adopted children

Ed Angara was adopted by La Trinidad town and fashionably gorgeous Baby Angara was adopted by the Tuba municipality earlier.

"This Igorot wedding ceremony links two cultures and different worlds and is a way towards peace and understanding. It is also (about) respecting other cultures and (accepting) the significance of their practices and tradition," explained Tootsy.

Baboo has lived in Baguio for 20 years and it has become her home. It is part of her journey through life which brought her and her daughter from Manille to The Hague, in the Netherlands, where she and Tootsy stayed in the apartment of ace photographer Alex Van Hagen for a time, then moved back to Antipolo and finally back to the mountains, where she found her place... "for now, Ha! Ha!"

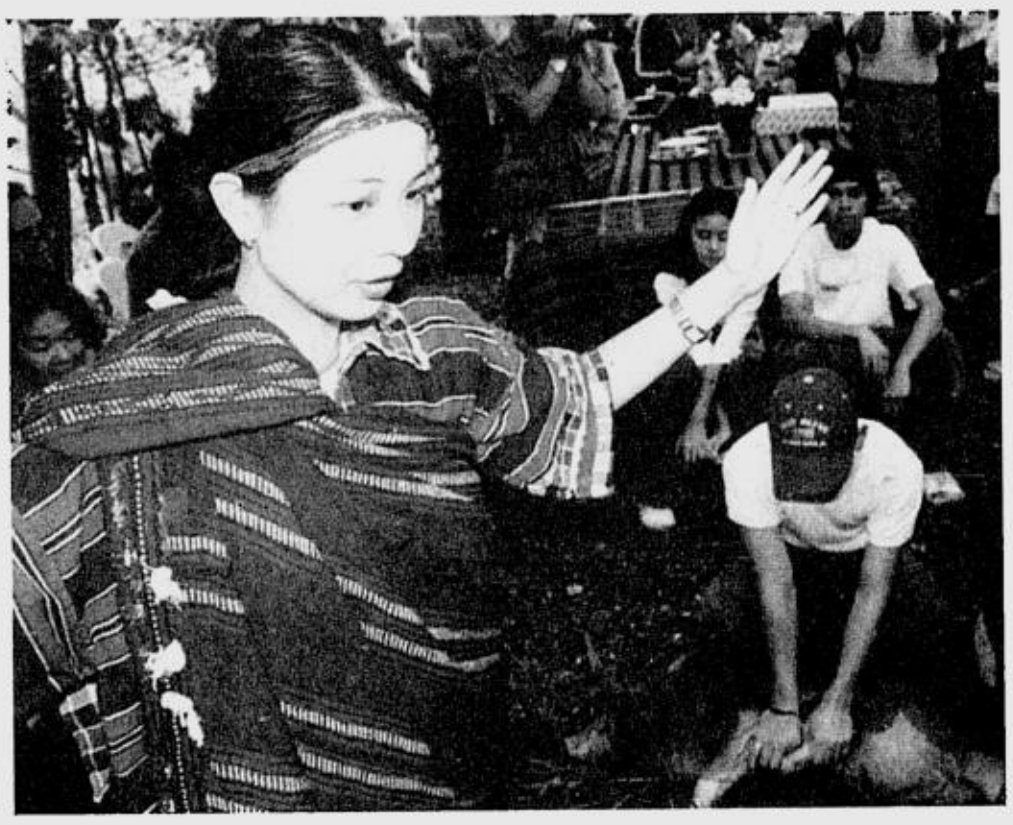
With some of her close pals, Baboo established that renowned Baguio hang-out, Cafe by the Ruins, and the Cordillera News Agency Foundation, a non-government organization.

Tootsy was raised in Baguio and is a mountain girl in spirit. She moved to Cosmo Manille to study when she was 15 years young and became one of society's darlings.

This brilliant young miss is connected at present with ABS-CBN where she is sales manager. Her groom, Sonny, is the only son of Senator Ed Angara and the glamorous Gloria "Baby" Manalang. He is a young, in demand lawyer at ACCRA, the law firm founded by his father.

A chi-chi Catholic wedding followed a week later at the Manila Cathedral, with a grand reception for the metropolis' *alta sociedad* held at the beautiful hotel by the bay, Manila Hotel.

Remember *palanggas*, "Following the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ may not always be easy... but God promises to guide us every step of the way."



TOOTSY dances around the pig being readied for the offering.

The Benguet governor wished the newlyweds lots of animals

GABY Planas, Annika Valdes and Brianna Relucio, the pretty, pretty flower girls

AND the groom makes four on the tribal dance floor

BEST men Itos Valdes, Derrick Santos and Jaco Yupangco with maids of honor Pia Echauz, Anna Angara and Patty Echauz

THE TAIPAN and the doctor. Principal sponsors PL Lim and Dr. Lydia Echauz

THE FUN pack. Celuch Manahan with Johnny Velasquez and Christy Cu-Unjieng Lopez

WITH THEIR PARENTS Baboo Mondonedo and Gloria and Ed Angara

NEWLYWEDS Mr. and Ms Sonny Angara

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

RICHARDS-AQUINO

Regina Aquino, daughter of **Babydoll Aquino**, will marry **Robert Richards**, son of Lt. Col. **Kevin** and **Jo Richards**, on Jan. 2, 2004 at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, DC. Reception will be held at Madison Hotel, Washington, DC.

The bridal gown was created by **Rena Koh**.

PINEDA-YATCO

Dr. **Charis S. Yatco**, daughter of realtor **Cezar** and **Cora Yatco** of Biñan, Laguna, and **Rodrigo B. Pineda**, son of **Johnny Pineda** and **Mila Vitug** of Los Angeles, California, were married recently at the Mission San Jose in Fremont, CA. Reception followed at Bridges Country Club in San Ramon, CA.

The couple has settled in San Jose, CA.

CHUA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Manuel Chua Sr. and **Lourdes Bella Chua** will be celebrating their golden anniversary with their children, **Evelyn, William, Manuel Jr., Eddie, Gerardo** and **Charlie**, on Nov. 25 at the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia Sta. Maria Asunta Church.

Leonard Co designed the gown.

TORLEE-DIAZ

Former PDI advertising deskperson **Rowena A. Diaz**, daughter of **Antolin** and **Rizalina Diaz**, will exchange vows with **Christian Torlee**, son of **Wolf-Dietrich** and **Adelheid Torlee** of Germany, on Nov. 28 at San Sebastian Basilica Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila.

MENDOZA-NICOLAS

Perseville Mendoza and **Ma. Victoria Nicolas** exchanged vows on May 17 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Project 6, Quezon City. A garden reception followed at Casa Español in South Greenpark Village.

The bride wore a creation by **Dennis Martin.** The wedding was jointly organized by **Paul Mendoza** of Promenzza Lifestyle Innovations and Wondrous Concepts.

PASION-EBORA

Lawyer **Rumar D. Pasion**, son of **Pedro** and **Florfina Pasion**, exchanged vows with **Margarita C. Ebora**, daughter of **Lilia Condicio vda. de Ebora**, on June 8 at the Central United Methodist Church.

PULIDO-DIVINAGRACIA

Marcel Soriano Pulido, son of **Avelino** and **Maria Pulido**, will exchange vows with **Dorothy Mariano Divinagracia**, daughter of **Monina M. Divinagracia**, on Dec. 2 at Sta. Ana Parish, Davao City.

Tata S. Soriano is the wedding coordinator.

ABRINA-AMORES

Engineer **Alan R. Abrina**, son of **Alfredo Sr.** and **Socorro Abrina**, will marry **Marycel P. Amores**, daughter of **Alfredo Sr.** and **Luzviminda Amores**, on Dec. 9 at Sta. Ana Parish, Davao City.

Tata Soriano provided the flowers and **Silverio Anglacer** designed the gown.

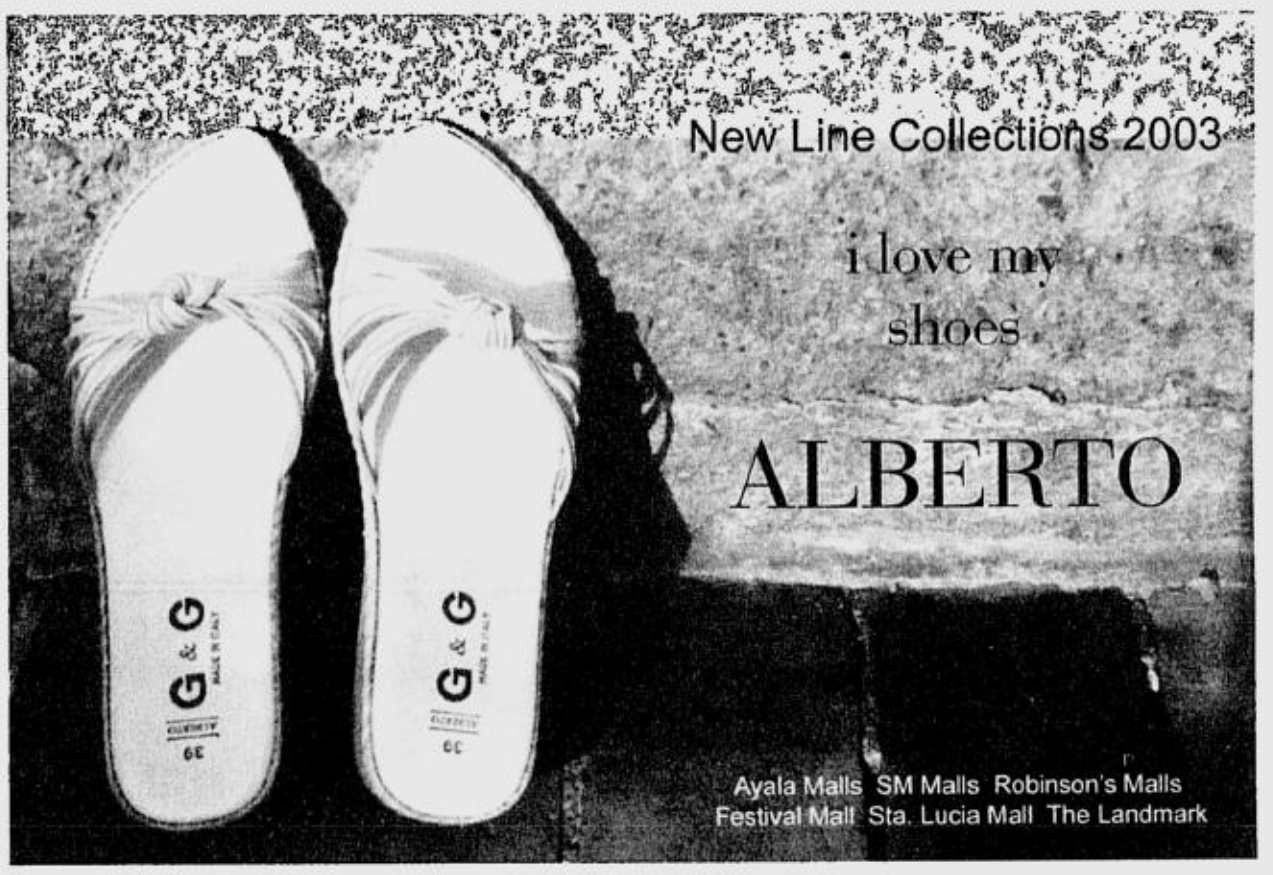
BARCELONA-PEREZ

Jose Zandro A. Barcelona, son of **Emmanuel** and **Evelyn Barcelona**, tied the knot with **Charmaine A. Perez**, daughter of **Orlando** and **Mena Perez**, on Sept. 28 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Reception followed at Manila Hotel.

The bride wore a **Nolie Hans** gown, while **Joel Escober** did the clothes of the members of the entourage.

CONANAN-COMETA

Amed Conanan, son of **Faustino** and **Evelina Conanan**, tied the knot with **Richel Cometa**, only daughter of **Alexander** and **Gina Cometa**, on Aug. 17 at San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica (Binondo Church), Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila. Reception followed at The Pearl Manila Hotel, Ermita. The event was organized by **Catherine Kiok Lay** of Crear el Pasar.



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With 3 Subsidiaries	₱4250	510	2040
With 4 Subsidiaries	₱4500	450	2250

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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SHOPWISE winners with their giant prize money: the Gonzales, So and Gajisan families with Donnie Tantoco and Valentina

Coming up with the next big idea in marketing

Hold a shopping contest, put up a dog show, invite dipsomaniacs to a wine-tasting, or ask Kris Aquino for a see-through —anything just to sell your wares!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

DURING these times when the retail world is very competitive, one has to be creative and ingenious to whip up imaginative ways to promote one's brand. Gone are the days of door-to-door salesmen who sing "... I'm gonna knock on your door, ring on your bell..."

Just about the lowest form of marketing life must be the telephone cold-callers, truly the encyclopedia salesmen of Generation X. Whenever these telemarketers manage to get to me, and they are experts at fooling secretaries and maids as to the importance of their call, I always pretend to be another secretary or maid!

Luckily for all of us targets of marketers, there are bigger budgets, better communications and technologies, more daring clients, more clever advertising agencies and more effective PR groups these days. All have made the events, which I have had the good fortune to attend, so exciting.

Even if traditional media still deliver the most effective and the widest coverage, these days, in-house promotional events and product launches are still necessary to create the all-important, to-die-for, difficult-to-achieve, "buzz."

Let me talk about some of the more excellent campaigns of recent vintage, and not to worry, I am not about to get into LV vs Gucci again!

To showcase its clothing department, Shopwise recently held

COMING/K2

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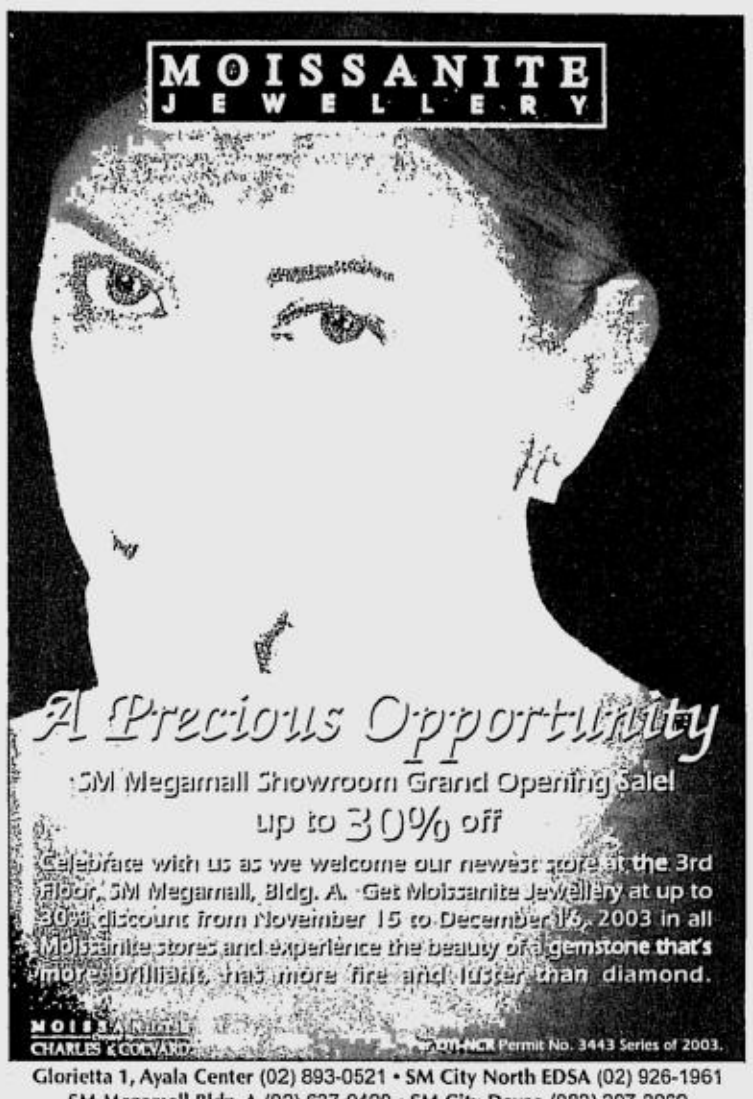

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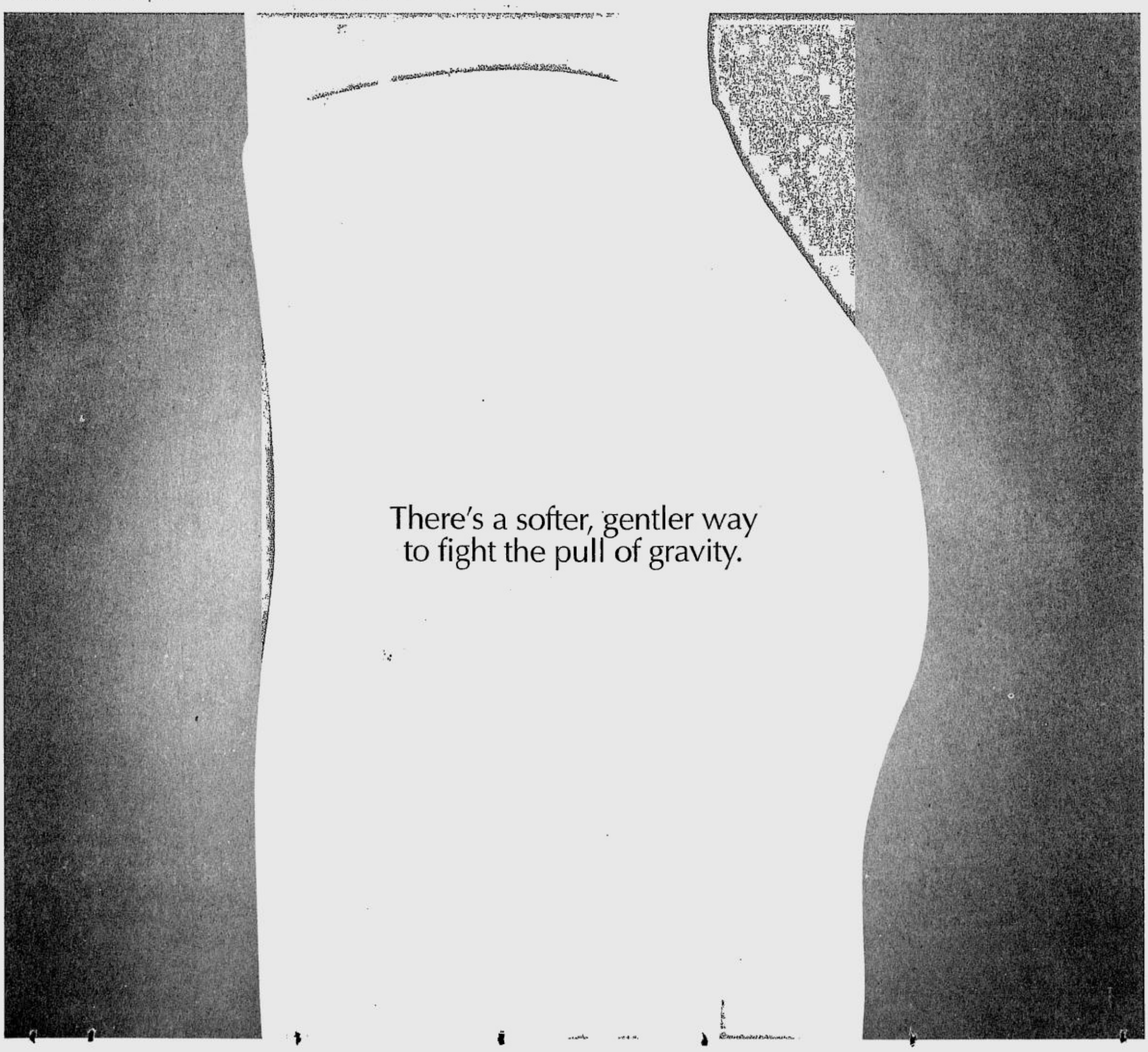

ACE photographer Wig Tysmans and Anna Angara with Dusty, a pomeranian

THREE'S company. Richard Danao and Markus Schmidt with Walter, a Jack Russell terrier

WENDY and Tony Hotung with their first baby, Osang, a miniature schnauzer

MY fave pooch in the Rustan's Dog Show, with its owners

BRUNO on the spot. Emily Lopez carrying Celine's chihuahua, and Patrick Reyno

MY Cruella de Vil costume that scared the dogs away, with Heidi Ng's cute dog

Coming up with the next big idea

From page K1

a contest called "Familia Fashionista." The task was to buy two sets of outfits for a family of four at Shopwise. But the real challenge was to work around with a budget of only P5,000. Hmmm... I would have been tempted to just purchase swimwear for my family, so I could keep the rest of the budget for my outfits!

Shopwise queen **Crickette Tantoco** asked me to chair the panel of judges, which, adhering to a cost-savings theme, included her husband, **Donnie**.

I was rather intrigued with what that P5,000 could buy at Shopwise, so I gladly agreed. It was almost like my Divisoria adventure last week, where INQUIRER asked some shopaholics to see how far P1,000 would go. Of course, I spent much more at Divi, using my own money because I got carried away.

But before I get carried away and lapse into last-week-history mode, let me get right back to Shopwise. The other judges, like my longtime "coolness" friend **Malu Fernandez** and my fave model **Rissa Samson**, were just as impressed with the families that participated. Shopwise showed that you can have a nifty little event without spending a lot of money, so critical in these difficult times.

ADIDAS night at Restaurant 12. Angellette Calero, Leah Puyat, Anton Barretto and Missy Elliot

OFF-BIRTHDAY boy Keren Pascual

DJ on the house. Jon Herrera

Going the way of dogs

Another recent event of a different kind was only open to four-legged, furry folks. All the participants arrived dressed au naturel, dressed only in their God-given coats and nothing else. Based on the shine of these coats though, the "Best Dog Model of the World" was clearly going to be a hotly contested award.

Just a few weeks ago, Rustan's Celebrity Pooch Gallery Exhibit cum Dog Show elicited a lot of audience appeal. ABS-CBN Publishing GM **Thelma San Juan** got me to talk to all the dog lovers and check out the cutest dogs around. The irony of it all is that I don't even own a dog! The closest thing to actual pets in my house are the goldfish I keep in a small pond I converted in lieu of a shower stall in my guest powder room.

By coupling the photo exhibit with a dog show, the marketers lengthened the life of the event, so that passers-by for a whole week could still see the dogs and their masters. Quite ingenious, with a lot of artistic quality achieved since the photos were taken by six of the country's top photographers. In fact, now that I think back I am hard-pressed to decide whether it was the dog show or the photo exhibit that was the main highlight of the afternoon.

When the organizers told me about the concept of responsible pet ownership, I told them my pets are fishes and rabbits. That's when I found out the main sponsor was Pedigree dog food! Not wishing to disappoint, I acted fast and produced a dog.

ANIMAL lovers. Karen Davila, soon-to-wed Julius Babao and Tintin Bersola, Cruella and Lani Misalucha with her kids

HAIRY friends. Heidi Ng with her well-groomed pets

DORE babies. Cecile Ysmael carrying Missy, and Louie Y, who just celebrated his birthday, posing with Ginger and Cristal

BACCHUS main boss, Alex Lichaytoo, with pretty girlfriend Pia Villanueva

ENJOYING the food and wine. Irene Martel Francisco and Kitty Jacinto

TOAST to the finest. Philip Lim and Cibo-Pepato's Gaita Fores

DRINKING buddies. Melissa Lichaytoo and Malu Gamboa

WINE expert Willi Klinger of Gaja and Clifford Lichaytoo

in marketing

My cousin Jon-jon Rufino lent me his photogenic and very *sosyal*-looking whippet, Calypso, for my pictorial by Tom Epperson. I never knew what a whippet was until I met Calypso, but we did look so good together in the shot taken by Tom, I might just borrow Calypso more often. He seems to be the perfect accoutrement to bring to an afternoon tea.

After I went through the skillful hands of makeup maven **Eric Maningat**, who transformed me into a stylized '60s diva, Calypso and I did several poses without even making a fuss. I was just glad he is toilet-trained, as many of the shots were taken on our bed.

The Power Plant Mall at Rockwell had never seen so many dogs loitering around. I was amazed with one family that owns three St. Bernards, each weighing over 100 kilos. And these giant dogs live in 24-hour, aircon rooms. That's not only a lot of Pedigree, that's also a whopping electric bill!

While waiting for the winner of the Best Dog Model Contest, where ace photographer **Wig Tysmans** was the sole judge, I got restaurateur-cum-bar king **Louie Ysmael** to bring up his dogs on stage. One of them must have gotten stage fright and took a dump right there. Or was that his way of staking out his territory? Whatever, it's a good thing the mall has a great clean-up service.

Buzz birthday party

Products can also create a buzz by having club-type parties at hip bar joints. Sometimes, they even pretend the event is a birthday party, even if it truly isn't. PR master **Keren Pascual** hosted his "birthday party" (his real birthday is in May, so this was sort of a mid-year celebration) at Restaurant 12, with Adidas products being given away by country manager **John Alonte** himself. Keren said he has had Christmas parties in June, so this is not too weird on the Keren scale.

My look for the night was **Missy Elliot**, with my new black Afro wig brought in from Korea by my sis **Sandy**. Keren had already sent to my house the latest Adidas line inspired by **Muhammad Ali**. After dancing all night to DJ **Jon Herrera**'s club mix, I realized it was much easier and cooler to be the bold and bald **Sinead O'Connor**. Could that head shine be the next Sea Princess look?

Even better than Sinead, if one could carry it off, is the **Beyonce** look, not to be attempted unless you are certifiably as sexy as she is. Watching this latest diva on MTV is amazing. Her gyrating moves are almost, yes, just almost as good as **Leah Puyat's** *otso-otso* that evening.

COMING/ K4

SHOPWISE EVP/GM Donnie Tantoco and AVP for marketing Frances Yu with 'Familia Fashionista' judges Paolo Basa, Malu Fernandez, Valentina, Rissa Mananquil-Samson, Shopwise VP for operations Crickette Tantoco and Frederick Peralta

THE VINZON family

THE ILAO family

THE PAGLILAUAN family: Grace, Henry, CJ and Janica

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Coming up with the next big idea in marketing

From page K2

Delicious marketing

Hosting small private dinners is still another way to introduce a product to a selected market, especially if the product is in the F&B sector.

THE MAYO family

Alex Lichaytoo of Bacchus International invited a small group of friends to a rich, delicious Italian dinner at Pepato Restaurant at Greenbelt 2.

Alex, who I imagine is a perfectly shaped, earthly Bacchus, had for his special guest, Mr. **Willi Klinger** of Gaja, a wine company he represents locally.

Since I am more a cocktail drinker but also enjoy fine red wine, I had a nice evening talking to Willi about the different flavors of wine. And Alex and Willi brought along a whole wine cellar, it seemed.

Glass after glass was placed in front of me, from the robust bouquet to the berry finish to the rapturous flavors.

I must have been so drunk already when I suddenly had the urge to pour all the remaining vintages from the marked glasses in front of me into one.

After realizing my faux pas, I told Willi that the Vin de Table in my glass now had an average price of P9,000. Humor is definitely a cure-all.

Intimate tack

Let me last relate what for me is still the most intimate way to sell a product—one-to-one targeting.

Ever heard of Stuart Weitzman shoes? Not to worry, not many have. It's in the new shoe salon of Rustan's, and the manager, daughter-in-law of my client, **Sharon Lacson**, asked if she could show me her wares at my house.

This is such an opportunity for that overused "mountain coming to Mohammed" quote, that I decided to make the effort twice as good for the enterprising manager. So I invited show-biz buddy **Kris Aquino** to share the temptation.

Funny that both of us, who attend vastly different functions, still bought the same styles. Truly, shopaholics are birds of the same feather.

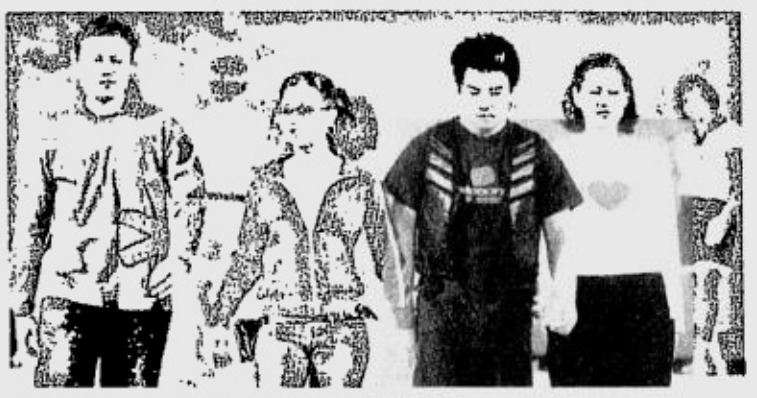
In closing, let me just greet all the advertising people up in Baguio for the Ad Congress this weekend. I know many of you are already fighting traffic back to Manila or perhaps just getting up after last night's alcohol frenzy at the closing Araw Awards.

To all of you who have just come up with the latest "big idea," may I share with you a paragraph from the book, "Wild at Heart" by **John Eldredge**. (**Anthony Pangilinan** gave this book to me when we were both guest speakers at the second Lopez Group HR Summit earlier this month.)

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

If you like that, and you want an even more Kennedyesque feel to it, just substitute "Philippines" for "world"—that for me is *the* big idea.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.



THE BOLINAS family in their Sunday best

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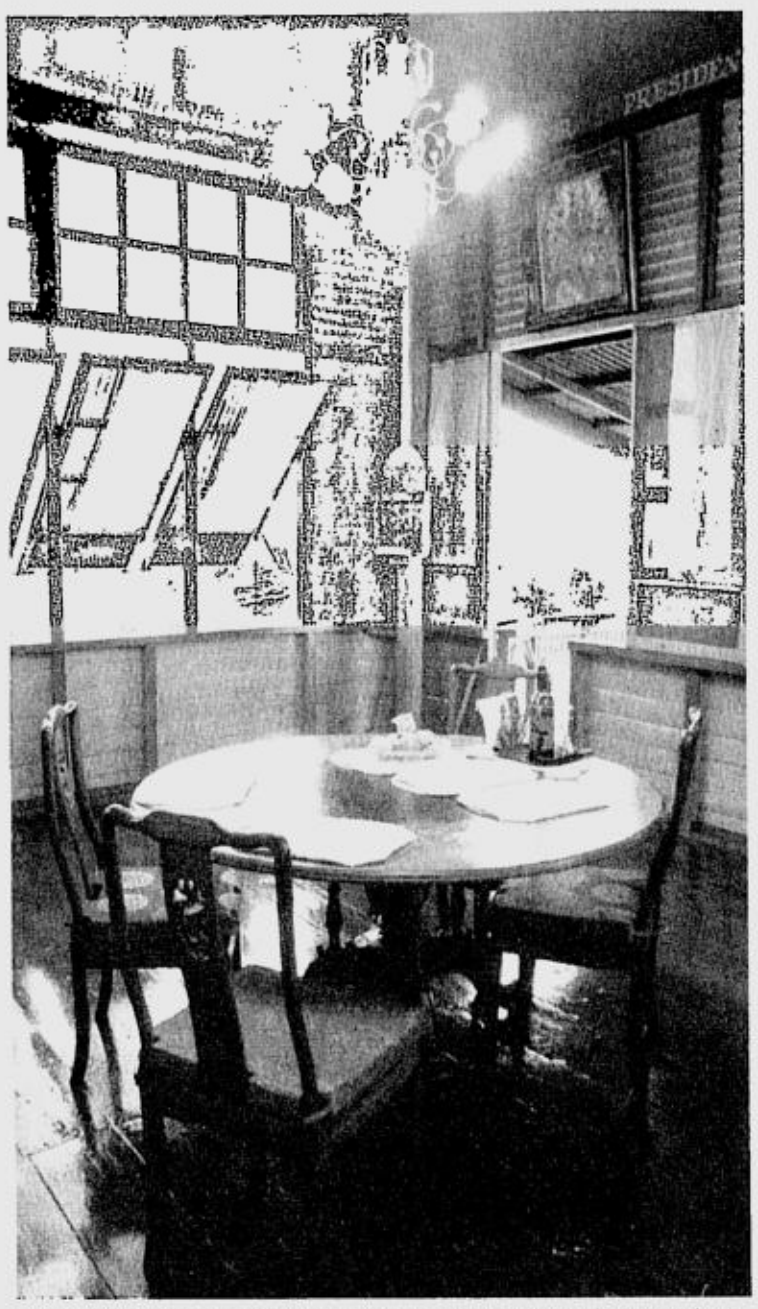
Sunday LIFESTYLE



THE DINING room of the Oslob house, with windows that open into an awesome view of the ocean.

THE COLORFUL façade of the Bonpua house and Museum of Sacred Art

Romance and religiosity in Oslob

Text by Abe Florendo
Contributor
Photos by Raul Arambulo

DRIVING from Cebu City along the eastern coastline of the island looking out to the Bohol Strait, we witness the unrelentingly scenic treat of the spectacular and the bucolic. For endless stretches, there is the omnipresent sea and the white beaches that keep the implacable, foamy water in check with a sandy or rocky embrace.

But when we come to Oslob, the next town after Boljoon, we are amazed. This town, held under the spell of the siesta hour, is spun with the fiber of the historic and touristic: its 200-year-old Immaculada Concepcion church, made of coral in the Romanesque style; the largely intact fortification called Estaca in Daan Lungsod (old town), said to be four times larger than the Vatican; and the bewitching Sumilon island, a marine sanctuary, favored by divers and snorkelers. It is a town embroidered with the gold threads

ROMANCE/ L2

TIFFANY & CO.

Tiffany Bubbles pendant and ring of diamonds and sapphires set in platinum.

Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

Romance and religiosity in Oslob

From page L1

of the miraculous and the legendary (among others, a growing statue of San Vicente Ferrer, its head bent low inside a reliquary housed in a modest hut right across from the municipal hall).

Add to this splendid fabric the accent of the eccentric. This last comes in the person of Señor Don José Lucero Bonpua, whose name ends with the abbreviations "Jr." and "Ph.D".

We are directed to Bonpua's museum. You won't miss his museum, he said, because it stands out in its bright paint of Chinese red, verdigris and chrome-yellow. "Stand-out," we find out, is a mild description for a house that devours and yet gives color and character to its neighborhood. The incredible two-story house, called Villa del Mar "Don José Bonpua," occupying a whole block, is now given almost entirely to Bonpua's amazing collection of sacred art.

It is Bonpua himself who opens the door for us, after a flock of barking, ferocious-looking native dogs behind the driveway gate sent the message that we were not welcome. As the museum is also closed for the holiday, the good man has to disable the electronic surveillance system that sends off alarms at the slightest intrusions.

I will also learn later from him that the place is protected by the mystic mantle of feng shui. The red color of the house, he says, repels evil and wrongdoers.

Inside it is cool but dark as the catacombs, which the mansion might well be with its 20 rooms, 42 windows, 37 doors and six stairways, not counting the cavernous social halls downstairs, a garage able to hold five cars and two seaside gardens with a cement sea wall whose structure had withstood the batterings of the sea.

Unsullied

Adjusting our eyes to the dark, we realize the interiors are painted in the same colors as the exterior of the house. Leading us up one flight of stairs and then another, Bonpua explains the windows are shuttered because he is extremely careful about the dust, harsh sunlight and the sea air causing his priceless pieces to fade or corrode.

He does not employ domestic or museum help, he adds, because he does not want soiled hands, including his, touching the surfaces of his invaluable acquisitions.

He brings us straight to his dining room, which has its old-fashioned windows swung out to let in the glittering sun and sea, and out to the adjoining balcony, which he calls the Terraza Mistica—a floating front-row seat to the awe-inspiring, humbling, spiritual spectacle of Pacific Ocean.

Straight ahead across the water ruffled by the *habagat,* our eyes can make out Siquijor, the island of fire and blood-curdling superstitions fomented by faith healers. To the south one can glimpse shrouded in the haze Sumilon island, Dumaguete in Negros farther down, and to the north, a dreamy apparition of the tip of Bohol.

Above is the azure sky that has remained ever new and steadfast over this sea and ancestral house.

Despite suspiciousness of our unannounced visit, Bonpua is quite loquacious, regaling us with interesting historical and cultural anecdotes and tidbits about himself which further illuminate for us his eccentricity and the great import of this house and museum.

The house, he says, was built in 1919, before the war, by his father, a full-blooded Chinese from Xiamen who went to study at the Ateneo de Manila, learned to speak Spanish fluently, and became a successful copra trader in Oslob where he had moved.

Here Don José Tio Bonpua Sr. met and married Gregoria Sabandal Lucero, daughter of Don Enemesio Lucero of Argao, Cebu, and a direct descendant of Count Vicente Ignacio Lopez de Lucero, who hailed from Galicia in the kingdom of Spain.

Doña Gregoria's mother was the granddaughter of Don Marcos Sabandal, the *gran maestro* architect who built the church in Oslob and other notable churches along the southern coast of Cebu and in Bohol. The structures are distinguished by their octagonal towers. (The miraculously intact original glass window panes of the Bonpua house has etched octagonal designs.)

ICON of St. Joseph, namesake of the Bonpua patriarch

An eccentric man of the world has built Cebu's most quaint collection of sacred art

JOSE Lucero Bonpua Jr.

IHS (Iesu Hominum Salvator) , the Crucifixion sign in a rare and precious depiction

ONE of the exhibition rooms in the Oslob house

Count Vicente Ignacio Lopez de Lucero came to the Philippines in 1597, landing in Vigan in southern Ilocos, then a big Spanish settlement. Sailing with him to "La Perla del Mar Oriente" was his wife, Doña Maria Catarina de Aragon, from the royal house of that name, whose lineage sprung from the *reyes catolicos*, Isabela and Fernando.

Maybe you're quite confused by all these ramifications, but so was Bonpua. He was actually ignorant about it all until, two years ago, he was presented with a meticulously researched family tree by a prominent member of the Almirante family in Cebu; the tree indicated that all the Luceros in Argao, Cebu, indeed descended from Count Vicente Ignacio Lopez de Lucero.

"I should have known this much earlier," said the good-humored Bonpua in mock lament. "When I was studying at the diplomatic school in Madrid, where King Juan Carlos of Spain had also studied, practically all of my classmates were nobles. If I had known about the count, I could then have also boasted of my noble lineage!"

Bonpua had spent his entire student and career life abroad. He had studied in Spain, France, Italy and The Netherlands. He had been assistant superintendent of schools in California; consultant to the Ministry of Defense in Saudi Arabia; training officer at Oasis Oil Company in New York, whose interests in Libya made it the fifth-largest oil company in the world (it's now defunct following the Gulf War).

He had wanted to retire to a nice seaside town in Mexico, but his wife, Doña Josefina Mantua de Bonpua, a retired nursing administrator in California, wished to go back home to the islands where the sun was brighter and the beaches more pristine.

In 1999, and after 40 years abroad, "I came back and all I saw was a house that was falling apart."

It was known as the "haunted house" in Oslob where it was alleged ghosts wearily paced the floors at night and the black-stained piano tinkled on its own.

Miraculously, years of neglect and the battering of the elements had not succeeded in substantially damaging the *molave*-and-*kamagong* floors, the glass window panes, the *ventanillas* of wood pierced with designs of stars and quarter moons.

But it was still a lamentable sight for Bonpua, who had grown up in this house and had cherished memories of his parents who dreamed of seeing their children and their children's children living under one roof (thus the 20 rooms).

Bonpua hired a dozen skilled carpenters and spent close to P3 million to bring the house back to life.

Bonpua and his wife moved in with a raft of religious and secular art pieces, transported in containers from Los Angeles to Oslob to the tune of $7,000. The cargo consisted of less than half of the collection the couple had amassed from their sojourns in Europe and the United States, having disposed of the other half to make room in the Oslob house and to save on expensive shipping costs.

The Bonpuas specialized in iconography—Russian, Byzantine, Greek and Spanish—mainly acquired at auctions. Holding a penlight to guide your eyes to the pieces in the dark rooms, Dr. Bonpua points to his most treasured pieces.

Collection

There are original 18th-century Russian icons, all in egg tempera on panel (some in *kiot* boxes), including a one-of-a-kind icon of St. Joseph and the Holy Child in 24k gold and encrusted with emeralds, diamonds, aquamarine, bicolor tourmaline, and chrysocolla; and a Glykhouphylousa, or "Our Lady of Tender Loving Care and The Holy Child," in 21k gold embellished with emeralds, diamonds and sapphire on its nimbus.

Very prominent among the Russian icons are the "Holy Face Not Made by Hands," the Pantocrator, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (the original version with Latin inscriptions), Our Lady of Tihkvin, Our Lady of Vatopedi Wounded and the Greek Orthodox "Crying Icon of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Acheiropoietos" from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

This last icon had inspired the Bonpuas to open the museum to the public. Only five copies of the Acheiropoietos, oil on convas on lucite, were made; the first copy was given to Pope John Paul II as a gift, who in turn sent the Bonpuas his apostolic blessing.

Bonpua is also very proud of the 16th century oil on canvas monogram of "IHS" (Iesus Hominum Salvator) from Spain;19th century gilded images of the Holy Family whose ivory hands were cut off by thieves, polychromed images of the Sto. Nino, St. Michael, the familiar San Roque with his dog and other Spanish-colonial wooden statues of incontrovertible Philippine provenance—although he bought them at auctions in the US.

Bonpua is wary about buying Philippine *santos* and other colonial religious antiquities, afraid that they might be stolen goods.

An avid admirer of the Spanish Surrealist Salvador Dali, Bonpua has Dali's serially numbered lithos and patinas in sterling silver and 18k and 21k gold, among them "Moses" and the "Lincoln in Dali Vision" which gives a startling illusion of the visage of President Lincoln and (*que horror!*) a naked woman facing the Crucifix.

No other museum in the country is privileged to own the four-volume Marietti edition in Latin of St. Thomas Aquinas's "Summa Theologia" and the volume in English known by its Latin title "Summa Contra Gentiles." Don Juan Carlos Parma, the king of Spain, sent him a collector's volume on the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs donated 32 volumes of religious writings in English, French and Spanish.

"RISEN Christ" by Dali, whose works in lithographs, serially numbered golden patinas and prints Dr. Bonpue would encounter at the St. Petersburg museum in Florida

The Museum of Sacred Art (Oslob, Cebu 6025, telefax (032) 4819000) does not by its name connote that it carries only sacred Christian art. it also has Chinese deities—Bonpua's father was, after all, Chinese-including an antique statue of Kuanyin, goddess of love and wisdom, and the three gods of longevity, wealth and prosperity, before whom are lighted candles and offerings of flowers in small bowls.

Strewn around the house are rosewood chairs emblazoned with the dragon, the Bonpua zodiac trademark and porcelain jars and carved jades.

The tour of the house finally brings us to the other *balconaje* jutting out above the street from the front of the house that also bristles with red and yellow and green banners carrying the family's coat-of-arms. Bonpua calls this balconaje the Terraza Romantica. Beside it will be constructed another *balconaje*, to be given to the propagation of orchids and to be named, what else, Terraza Orchidia.

Oslob, this old town lying close to the southernmost tip of the island of Cebu, throbs with the layered colors of its historic past and the ageless and rhythmic sounds of the sea , and to its inimitable allure, Bonpua hopes to contribute the lofty, unbounded dimension of the spiritual and sacred.

THE MONSTRANCE Bonpua has donated to the Oslob church

Miraculous Medal national shrine joins Cofradia procession

REVEREND Fr. Raymond Regua, Vincentian rector and parish priest of the National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village, will lead devotees in joining the Cofradia procession for the first time on Dec. 7, 4 p.m., around Intramuros.

This comes as good news to the people devoted to this title of the Virgin Mary who cannot go all the way to Posadas Village in Muntinlupa. They can honor the Virgin instead during the procession.

When I went there for the first time on Nov. 16 with Edith Copada and Sonia Pelobello, I had a strange experience. When we knelt below the altar of the Virgin, an old woman was also there. She suddenly brought out two tiny plastic images of the Miraculous Medal and said that she came all the way from Cebu, and that her name was Telly Villanueva. It was also her first time.

Then, as we continued to pray, tears were suddenly flowing down my cheeks as if in anticipation of the passage written on the right wall of the altar which was told to the postulant Catherine Laboure on Nov. 27, 1830.

It said, "Come to the foot of this altar; her graces will be bestowed upon all who ask with confidence and fervor." We left the shrine with a lighter heart.

A rosary exhibit will be shown in the Virgin Mary Hall until Nov. 27. The exhibit features 100 rosaries from the personal collection of Alex Pesigan.

Fr. Flaviano Caintic, a Vincentian priest, will also show his collection of 100 medals depicting the Miraculous Medal collected during his four-year sojourn in Rome. Alongside the exhibit will be a video of the Miraculous Medal story.

Monasterio de Tarlac opens in San Jose town

Eight monks belonging to the Servants of the Risen Christ will start living in huts spread all over the Mount of the Resurrection in San José town after the Dec. 2 blessing by Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinenze and Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

The 30-ft image of the Risen Christ will welcome pilgrims and guests going up the mountain, and a hermitage house will also come into view. Gov. Jose Yap has given his support to this endeavor.

Those who wish to come to this event can gather at the Tarlac Cathedral on Dec. 2, 8 a.m., and join the convoy going up the mountain. Please, be on time. Kindly text Fr. Archie Cortez, the monastery prior, at 0916-7044610 if you want to join.

It will take at least five years to completely develop the area. By that time, people can come to have retreats or personal recollections. "We build as the money comes," said Father Archie.

Advent wreath rite

Fr. Manoling Thomas, a Redemptorist priest from Iligan, wrote: "Through your column, may I request your help in promoting and in encouraging Catholics to celebrate the Advent Wreath Rite not only in their parish/community churches, but also in their homes, offices, classrooms and religious or faith communities... This little booklet I have enclosed is my small contribution... in 'reclaiming' and putting back this valuable Christmas/Catholic heritage in its rightful place.

"As you would notice, I have included a brief historical background and explanation of the various components of the Advent wreath, hopefully for a better understanding of this Advent symbol."

The booklet is available in English and in Cebuano at the following outlets: Luzon—Redemptorist Church, Baclaran, Parañaque City; Redemptoristine Nuns' Convent (back of the Redemptorist Church), Legazpi City; and Daughters of St. Paul Media Centers in Legazpi, Naga and Lipa cities.

Visayas—Redemptorist Church, Cebu City; Catholic Trade School (San Carlos University Bldg.), Cebu City; Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, Dumaguete City.

Mindanao—Redemptorist Church, Iligan City; and Daughters of St. Paul Media Centers in Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro cities.

Our Lady of La Paz Parish

Revisiting the roots of Our Lady of La Paz Parish takes one all the way back to that so-called "Peacetime" and to a place called Barrio Palanan, Ayala Corporation's first postwar residential subdivision in Makati.

The area consisted largely of swamp undergrowth—more popularly called *kangkungan*—interspersed with patches planted to rice and strips of wetland with thick growths of *talahib* and water lilies.

This "wilderness" attracted settlers from nearby provinces. In the portion which now comprises La Paz Parish, records of occupancy registered five families in May 1949.

This small cluster expanded so rapidly that, by the early '50s, the residents "seceded" from Palanan and established an independent barrio, which they named La Paz in honor of their chosen patroness, Our Lady of La Paz and Good Voyage.

This situation compelled the civic club members to raise funds for the purchase of a lot and the construction of a chapel. Their efforts bore the desired fruit.

From 1967 until 1975, the chapel served as the center of the community's parish affairs. The celebration of the Sunday Masses was made possible by several priests coming one after another and residing in the community for short periods.

In 1975, the club members began making formal representations with Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for the conversion of La Paz, then just attached to the Sacred Heart Parish, into a full-fledged parish. The Archbishop agreed and promulgated a decree of erection on Feb. 24, 1976.

An "open hospital" was how Cardinal Sin called La Paz Parish when he entrusted it to the Camillian Fathers.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

When the Order of St. Camillus planted the red cross of their founder in the Archdiocese of Manila, Cardinal Sin asked them to administer a parish and offered them three options in Novaliches, Caloocan and Makati. They chose Barrio La Paz.

Cardinal Sin assured the Camillians (also known as Ministers of the Sick) that their parish ministry would bring them an "open hospital" where they could carry out their charism and ministry full blast. For in La Paz, they would indeed encounter a great number of sick people, many of whom had no access to the costly services of regular hospitals.

Life in La Paz in the past 26 years has been richly blessed through the dedicated, loving, competent leadership and care of its past three Camillian pastors (Fathers Alberto Roman, Mario Didone and Fr. Ivo Anselmi) as well as of the present parish priest, Fr. Raul E. Uson, OSC.

This is good news to people devoted to Our Lady who cannot go all the way to Posadas Village in Muntinlupa

The church, which needs repairs at this time, is located at Archimedes corner Flordeliz Streets, Barangay La Paz, Makati. Call Fr. Raul at 8993054.

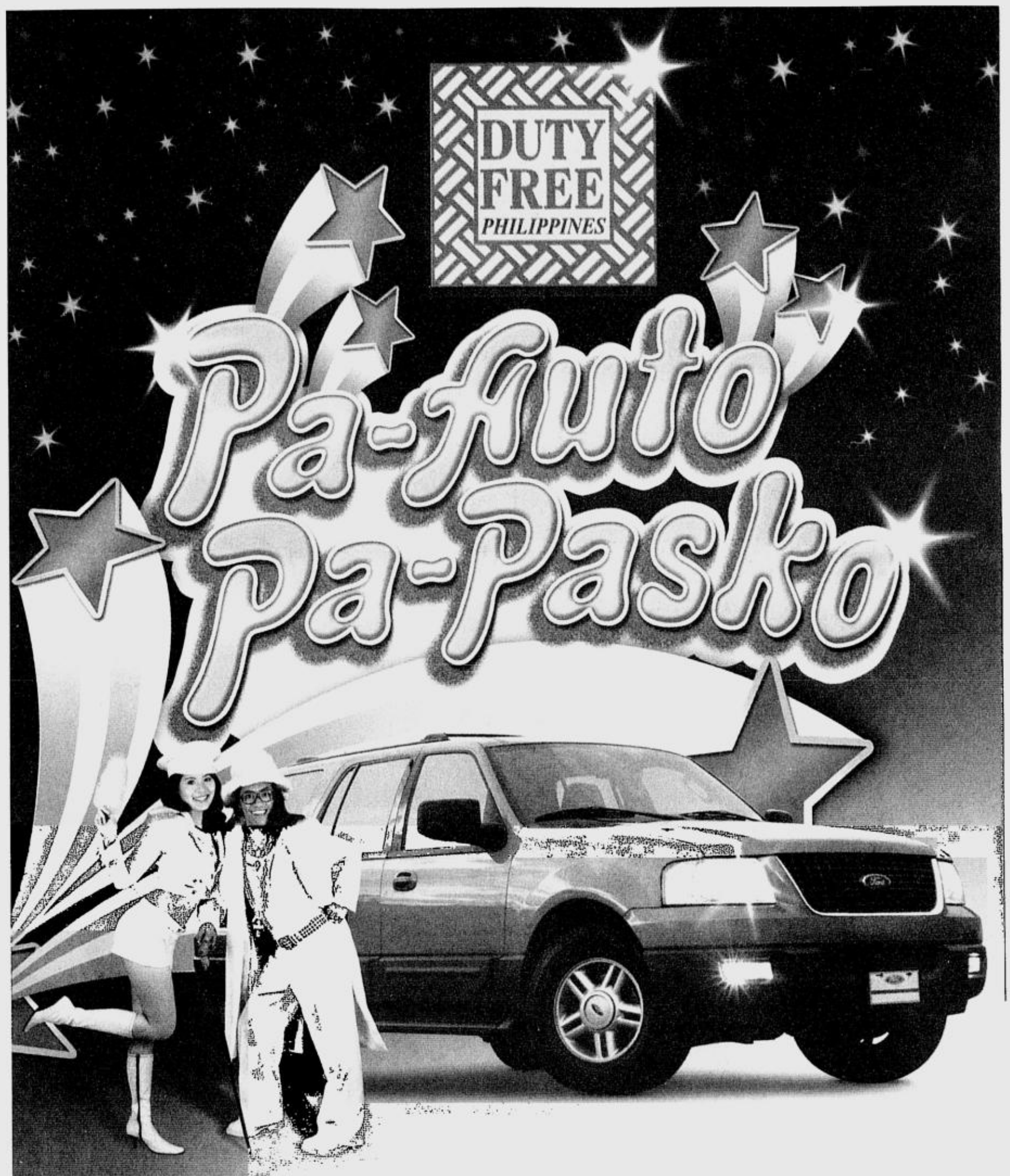
San Andres Fiesta

To celebrate the feast of San Andres in Catanduanes, the miraculous icon of Our Lady of Sorrows in Batong Paluay was transferred to San Andres Parish church. A *novena* is ongoing until Nov. 29. A concelebrated Mass to be officiated by Bishop Manolo de los Santos will take place on Nov. 30 at 8:30 a.m.

Metro Manila residents will hold a Mass on Nov. 30 at 11 a.m. in UP Balara, Quezon City.

In St. Andrew Church in La Huerta, Parañaque, celebration is on Nov. 29, because Nov. 30 is the first Sunday of Advent.

The feast of Our Lady of Buen Suceso will be celebrated on Nov. 28 with the fiesta Mass at 6 p.m. Happy feast day, Mama Mary!



You can win a 2003 Ford Expedition or a P1 Million Shopping Spree!

Promo period is from November 23, 2003 to January 15, 2004. Draw date is on January 30, 2004.

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2. For every $100 worth of purchase, a customer will be entitled to one (1) raffle coupon.
3. Participating customers should present their DFP shopping card and receipts at the claim counter to get their computer printed raffle coupons, affix their signature and drop their entries at designated drop boxes located at Duty Free malls.
4. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she will get the bigger prize.
5. Only entries received on or before January 15, 2004 shall be qualified.
6. Raffle draw will be on January 30, 2004 at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall, at 3:00 p.m.
7. One Million Peso Shopping Spree is in the form of Gift Certificates.
8. Prizes are tax paid and not convertible to cash. All purchases are subject to Customs rules and regulations. Customs duties and taxes for electronic purchases of non-Balikbayans and non-OFWs will be paid in cash and shouldered by the winner.
9. Winners will be notified by registered mail and announced in leading national daily newspapers. Prizes may be claimed at Marketing Department, Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall upon presentation of valid IDs.
10. Employees of Duty Free Philippines, PC&V and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity shall not be allowed to join the promo.
11. Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after notification will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.

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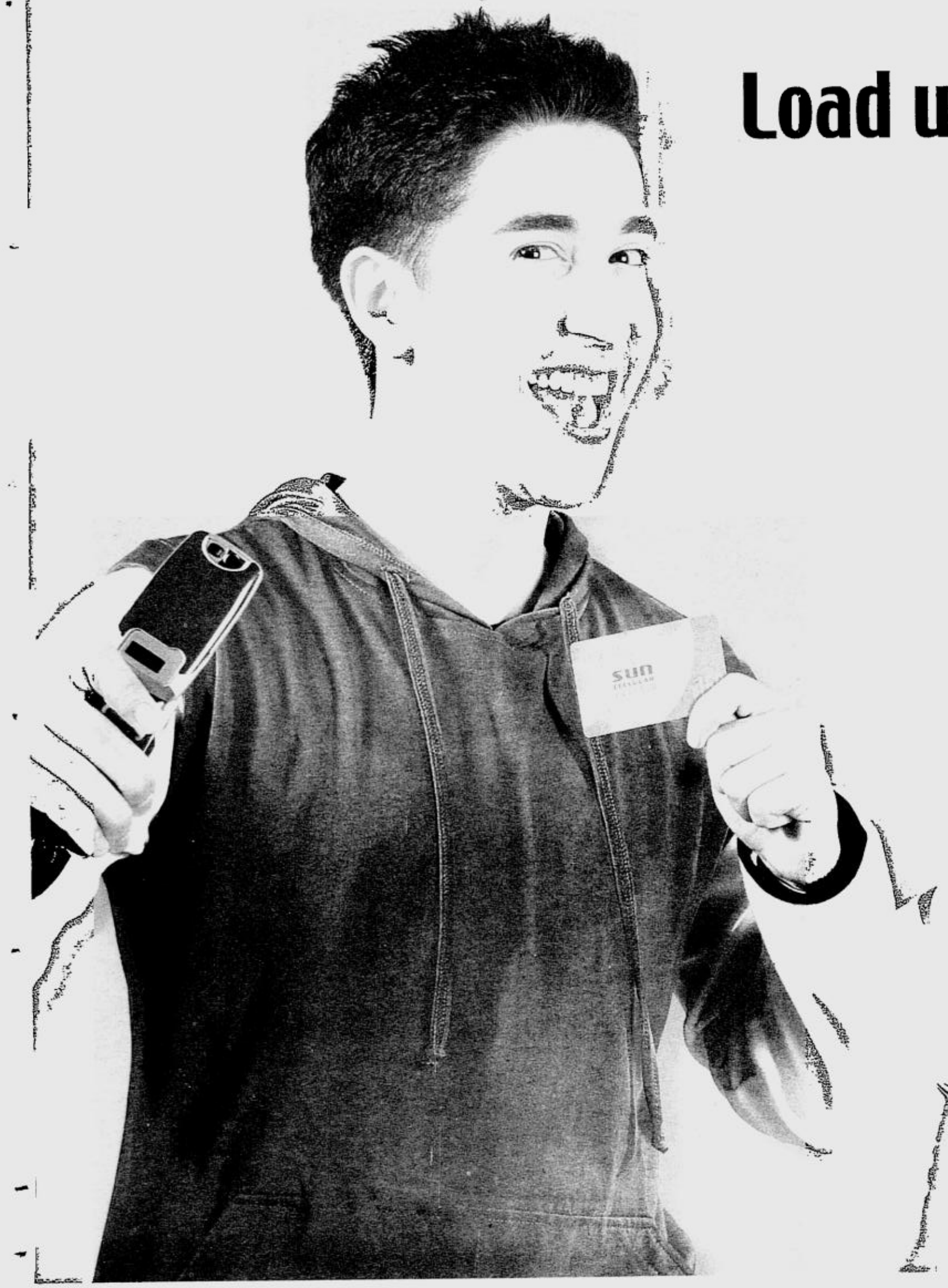

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Hurry, load up now! Save up and be the man! This promo is good from November 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004 only.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4548, Series of 2003.

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OVERSEAS SECTION
ON PAGE M9

Where You Find The Best. M1

Link up with the distinguished team of dynamic individuals and enjoy a stable career that gives you ultimate satisfaction. We offer an exciting career path for ambitious professionals.

In the Visayas, Metro Gaisano has made a legend of its own in the retail industry and has evolved for more than 20 years. We are growing, moving and soaring high as we open METRO MARKET MARKET in Fort Bonifacio.

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STORE MANAGERS
Bachelor's degree graduate; minimum of 3 years work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale retail or food chain industry; excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

STORE SUPERVISORS
Graduate of Business course preferred; minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from customer/service industry; team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

FAST FOOD MANAGERS
Graduate of business course preferred; minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from food chain industry; team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

ADS & PROMOTION OFFICERS
Female, Mass Communications graduate; preferably with experience in same capacity or in public relations; personable, articulate and outgoing; ability to profitably relate with customers

MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS
Marketing major graduate or any related discipline with relevant work experience; articulate, personable and outgoing; ability to interact effectively with people at all levels

PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY CLERKS
Female, not more than 25 years old; BS Pharmacy graduate; license holder for Pharmacist; alert, with proficiency in oral communication

COOKS/BAKERS
Not more than 38 years old; minimum of 2 years work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale restaurant/bakeshop

PLAIN CLOTHES PERSONNEL
Male, not more than 24 years old, Criminology graduate; responsible, keen and alert; ability to work in shifting schedule

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS
Male, licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer; minimum of 3 years work experience in building administration and property management; highly organized, results-oriented, with excellent leadership skills

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS
Female, graduate of Psychology or Business; minimum of 3 years supervisory experience; solid background in all aspects of HR functions; proficiency in the Labor Code of the Phils.; excellent organization, communication and interpersonal skills

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
Male, licensed Mechanical Engineer; minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity; substantial exposure in preventive & corrective maintenance of mechanical equipment from medium to large scale industry; strong leadership, organization and planning skills

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
Male, licensed Electrical Engineer; minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity; well-versed in industrial wiring and motor control; strong leadership, organization and planning skills

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
Male, BS Computer Science graduate; minimum of 3 years relevant work experience; solid background in systems programming using AS400, Novell, UNIX, etc.

CADD OPERATORS
BS Architecture graduate; technical knowledge and hands-on experience in planning and designing of interior lay-out for commercial projects; proficiency in AUTOCADD

HRD OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS
Female, BS/AB Psychology graduate or any related discipline; preferably with 2 years exposure in all aspects of HR functions including but not limited to Recruitment, Training, & Employee Relations; pleasant disposition, with excellent planning, communication and interpersonal skills

NURSES
Female, registered nurse; minimum of 1 year hospital exposure; mature, responsible, with ability to work in shifting schedule and with minimal supervision

VISUAL ARTISTS
Fine Arts graduate major in Interior Design; minimum of 1 year work experience in same capacity; proficiency in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator and other graphic software applications

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS
Male, Computer Science/Engineering graduate; minimum of 2 years work experience in maintenance & troubleshooting of PCs; systematic and results-oriented

GENSET OPERATORS
Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or related vocational course; technical knowledge and hands-on experience in operating diesel engines with more than 1000hp

ELECTRICAL & RAC TECHNICIANS
Electrical/Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning course graduate; minimum of 1 year exposure in basic electrical works and handling of showcase chillers, freezers and centralized air-conditioning

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resume with 2x2 recent picture and copy of their transcript of records to:

THE HRD Manager
Metro Gaisano
Cebu Business Park
Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City

e-mail add:
mgaisano@mozcom.com

OR

ISIS - International Strategic Intelligence Solutions
Suite 1104 139 Corporate Center
Valero St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

e-mail add:
aileen.gallinera@strategic.com

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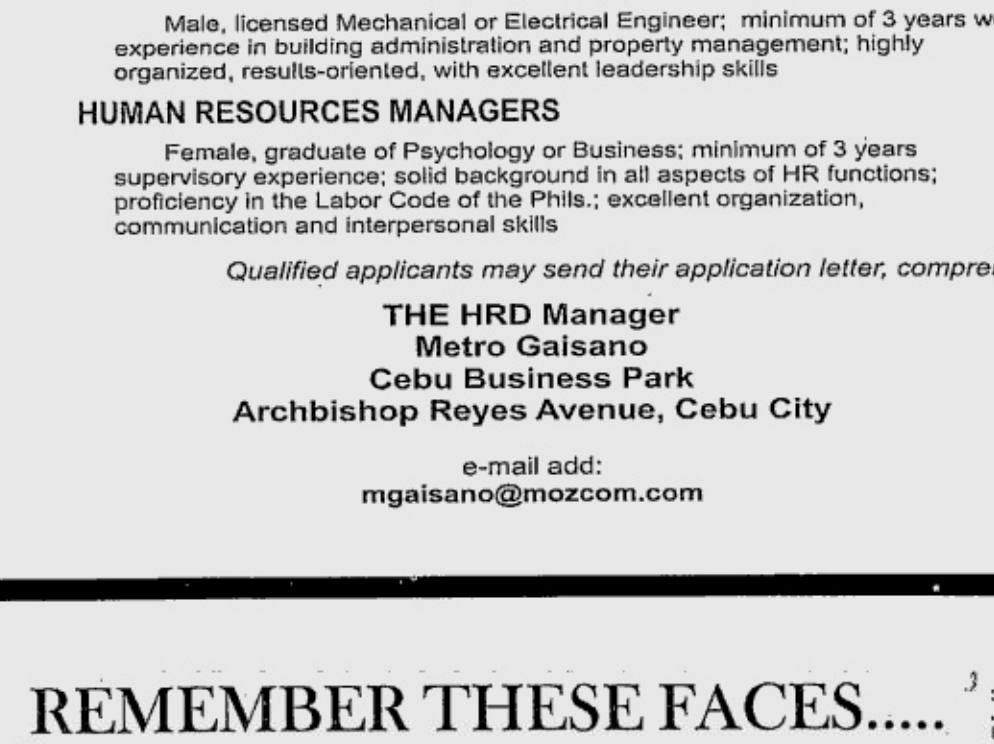

THEY'RE ON THE NEXT PAGES

The Ambergris' HR Team
Looks forward to having you join the Ambergris

We're expanding!

OPERATIONS MANAGERS – SALES
OPERATIONS MANAGERS – CUSTOMER SERVICE
- ✓ Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers.
- ✓ Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center, managing an account with sales targets and deliverables for 150 agents.
- ✓ Exposed to client-relationship management.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Strong knowledge of PC hardware.

OPERATIONS MANAGER – TECHNICAL SUPPORT
- ✓ Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers.
- ✓ Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center, managing an account with sales targets and deliverables for 150 agents.
- ✓ Exposed to client-relationship management.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Proven and demonstrable knowledge of PC hardware, networking and technical trouble shooting.

DIRECTOR FOR WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ Strong grasp of workforce management methodology – previous call center scheduling, capacity planning and MIS reporting experience is a must.
- ✓ Enhance intraday queue management practice to ensure center meets all performance and head count goals.
- ✓ Coordinate new hire process with training, recruiting and center management to maintain committed head count.
- ✓ Effectively manage scheduling to meet or exceed all staffing and compliance goals.
- ✓ Provide center with accurate reporting and analysis on a regular basis.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Familiarity with Blue Pumpkin software is an advantage.
- ✓ Solid background in Statistical Math.

300 Inbound Sales Associates
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Asst. Operations Mgrs / Shift Leaders

Organizational Development Manager
Training Manager
Trainers
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Network Administrator
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Global Customer Services

TERADYNE

Is the world's largest supplier of automatic test equipment and software for the telecommunications and electronics industries. It is engaged in parts and repair services support for mixed signal, VLSI and memory testing. Its Repair Center facility in Cebu has been in operation since 1996 and its Customer Care Center that recently opened in 2003 employs more than 100 personnel. With the unprecedented growth of the Company, we are looking for applicants who are creative, aggressive, and mature to fill up the following positions:

SR. TEST DESIGN/FAILURE ANALYSIS ENGINEER
(CODE: STE)

GCS mission is to provide world-class repair and replacement part services that our customers value. We are looking for a Sr. Test Engineer to be situated in our repair Location in Cebu, Philippines. He shall be responsible in test equipment programs, validation and verification programs, modification, upgrades and/or repair. He shall closely work with other engineers and other divisions for process and quality improvements. He should be very competent and he will act as technical mentor and/or coach to other test engineers in improving technical repair in Cebu. Other responsibilities include asset utilization and participation on quality improvement teams through the use of TQM concepts. The candidate must be very flexible, as the position requires meetings outside the daily workday with team based in the US as well as potential travel to the US.

Qualifications:

- BSECE, BSEE, MS in Engineering preferred.
- At least 10 years extensive experience as test, failure analysis, field or design engineer in the semiconductor industry.
- Experience in Hardware / Software validation and verification for medium or high-end testers.
- Comprehensive knowledge in unix, solaris, windows based application and knowledge in C++ programming.
- Must have experience in managing more than 10 Test / Failure Analysis Engineers.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.

TEST ENGINEER
(CODE: TE)

Duties/Responsibilities/Essential Functions:

He shall be responsible for identifying and researching component failures to improve good yields, quality and reliability. Analyzes failure reports and recommends corrective action to prevent recurrence of problems. Uses all digital and analog electronic test equipment and test systems to do board failure analysis and debugging. May support new product transfer startup/set-up, and the improvement of the failure analysis process. Promotes shared learning across Repair Division and other functional groups.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Engineering course preferably in Electronics and Communications, Electrical Engineering.
- 2-3 years extensive experience as test, field or design engineer in the semiconductor industry is an advantage
- Has a high sense of urgency in dealing with the job and can interface with different level of positions in the organization
- Must have comprehensive knowledge in unix, windows based application and C++ programming.

BOARD REPAIR TECHNICIANS
(CODE: BRT)

Qualifications:

- BSECE, BSEE, BSIT-ELECTRONICS Graduate
- Knowledgeable in electronics board troubleshooting, soldering and repair
- Goal and results-oriented, assertive and hardworking
- Computer literate

BOARD REPAIR TECHNICIANS – NIPONGGO SPEAKING
(CODE: BRT-NS)

Qualifications:

- BSECE, BSEE, BSIT-ELECTRONICS Graduate
- Knowledgeable in electronics board troubleshooting, soldering and repair
- Goal and results-oriented, assertive and hardworking
- Computer literate
- Knows how to speak Niponggo fluently and can preferably write in Niponggo

The successful candidates will receive a competitive compensation and benefits package within the semiconductor and electronics industry and has the opportunity to work in a technology driven company like TERADYNE.

Please send your **application letter** together with your **resumé** and **2x2 id picture not later than 26 November 2003** to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Teradyne Philippines, Ltd.
Mactan Export Processing Zone II
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu, Philippines 6015
or email to Philippines.jobs@terdayne.com

(Please write position code in your application letter or in the subject of your e-mail)

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- Must be a Certified Public Accountant; not more than 35 years old
- Knowledgeable in all facets of accounting function, preferably gained from a hospitality industry
- Is keen to details; Can work in a highly challenging environment

HR & TRAINING OFFICER

- Graduate of Behavioral Science course; female
- Knowledgeable in developing and implementing training programs for employee and organizational development
- Can handle HR functions; Is passionate about creating and sustaining empowered teams

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably business-related
- With a minimum of two years hotel sales experience
- Possesses excellent people and communication skills
- Enjoys field work; Has good network of clients/contacts

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

- Well-versed in food & beverage and supplies purchase procedures
- Good at price composition and analysis
- No integrity issues

All positions are Batangas-based.

Interested applicants can send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:
Human Resource Department
Hotel Pontefino
Bgy. Gulod Labac, Batangas City

or **HR Management Group**
24th Floor., IBM Plaza, Libis, Quezon City

The Job:
Technology Integrator

What Drives You

The Person:

- With solid SQL database knowledge from an enterprise database design perspective—MS SQL Server 2000 and Oracle 9 preferred.
- Knowledge of enterprise applications such as Exchange and SAP and Call Center Systems is a plus.
- Good general knowledge of Unix and Windows 2000 environments and Windows XP and Office XP for desktop computers.
- Knowledge of Cisco networking, international Telecoms and network security.
- Demonstrated Project Management skills and the ability to follow ChevronTexaco's internal Project Management Process (CPDEP).
- Strong customer focus skills and the ability to understand business requirements and translate those into successful IT solutions that comply with our corporate IT standards.
- Good team skills including the ability to work successfully with vendors and outsourcers often via email and teleconference.
- Should be customer-driven, results-oriented, and a good team player.
- Should be comfortable working in a fast-paced, dynamic work environment.

Working for a diverse and globally competitive company, Caltex (Asia) Limited, a ChevronTexaco company, has a business network that spans the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and the Middle East. Caltex (Asia) Limited is committed to maximizing a multi-cultural work force and valuing the uniqueness of each individual. Our passion is to achieve results that exceed expectations - - that of our own and those of others.

If you share the same values and passion, you may submit your comprehensive resume to KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc. c/o Karmeli Kintanar at the 22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or email to kkintanar@ksearch.com.ph; with fax number at 893-6259. Please indicate the position you are applying for in the email title, or at the upper left hand corner of the envelope.

Closing date is on 05 December 2003.

What Drives You CALTEX

Caltex is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a Caltex career. Application letters will be filed for future reference for a maximum of 6 months.

JOB VACANCY

FLORIST OR FLORAL DESIGNER

Professional designer of flower, chocolate and gift arrangements with excellent experience and knowledge. Good communication skills in written and spoken English is required.

"You make the salary... We do the payment!"

Send your application to the address below with the following:

1) Bio Data
2) Recent Photo
3) Passport Copy
4) Detailed CV w/ Qualifications
5) Work Experiences
6) Supporting Docs and Certificates

ATTENTION: THE GENERAL MANAGER - REEMA LLC
E-MAIL: SRKHATER@HOTMAIL.COM

URGENTLY NEEDED

A financial institution is in need of highly dynamic individuals to fill-up the following positions for its 4th Quarter Expansion program for 2003:

AUDITORS/ACCOUNTING CLERK
ACCOUNT SERVICE PERSONNEL

- Male/Female; 21-25 years old
- Accounting Graduate
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned in the following areas: Luzon-Metro Manila/Antipolo / Pampanga / Bataan / La Union / Sta. Cruz, Laguna / Legaspi City / Masbate / Visayas – Roxas City / Iloilo City / Borongan / Bogo Cebu / Dumaguete.

PROGRAMMER

- Male not more than 30 years old
- BS Computer Science Graduate
- At least two (2) years work experience as Programmer
- Knowledgeable in development of program Application using Windows & DOS based system
- Exposure in LAN set up programs & NT Server
- Willing to travel in different provinces

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Honest/Hardworking/People Oriented
- Excellent in oral and written Communication

Applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to (please indicate the position applied for & the area of preference):

Box No. KA-010-03 MT
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila

The Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)
is seeking an

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

to lead the organization in promoting press freedom and journalism standards and professionalism in Southeast Asia. SEAPA is a Bangkok-based regional NGO, banded together in 1998 by independent press organizations in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. For more information, visit www.seapabkk.org.

Responsibilities:

- Ensure the smooth operation of all SEAPA activities by coordinating with staff, Board, volunteers and international organizations
- Oversee programs and projects undertaken by the organization
- Initiate fund-raising efforts and liase with funders
- Organize conferences and training courses
- Represent the organization in regional forums and in the regional media

Qualifications:
The ideal candidate will have:

- Nationality of Southeast Asia
- Management experience, preferably in a regional NGO setting
- Experience in fundraising, proposal writing and financial management
- Familiarity with press freedom and media issues in Southeast Asia and with good knowledge of the global media environment
- Proficiency in English with ability to write and edit in English
- Excellent communication skills, including computing and Internet skills
- Strong interpersonal skills

Successful candidate will enjoy a competitive salary and staff benefit.

Send resumé by December 31, 2003 to

Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)
538/1 Sam Sen Rd. Dusit Bangkok 10300 Thailand;
Tel & Fax 66-2 2435579
E-mail: seapa@seapabkk.org
Both by electronic mail and courier

A Manufacturing Company is searching for a dynamic and goal oriented person for the following positions:

Account Manager

- Female, 22-35 years old, with pleasing personality.
- Proficient in verbal and written communication.
- Graduate of Masscom, Marketing or any related course from a reputable school
- Minimum of one year experience in sales.
- With transportation, meal allowance and incentives.
- Knows how to drive a car is an advantage.
- Adept in customer relations and proficient in dealing and interacting with people in all situations.

Sales Secretary

- Female, 22-30 years old, single with pleasing personality.
- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable school.
- PC literate and familiar in computerized system.
- Can work with minimum supervision.
- Assertive and hardworking.

If you are qualified for the position you may bring your resumé, transcript and 2x2 ID photo to the HRD DEPT.

SEANTEK INC. 558 Gen. Malvar St., Malate Manila
or call Nick 5248693 or 09209092566 for details

A YOUNG & DYNAMIC PRINTING AND PACKAGING COMPANY IN PASIG IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: Male/Female, 24 to 35 yrs. old. Graduate of any 4-year course, with at least 2 years experience in sales, with good moral character.

PLATEMAKER/STRIPPER: Male, 22 to 28 yrs. old. With 2 to 3 years experience in printing industry as platemaker/stripper.

Send Credentials to Box #800
c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads
5/F Bldg. 5, SM Megamall
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

SECURITY MANAGER/SECURITY OFFICER
Male
(Newly) Graduate of any course
5'8" in height
Computer Literate
With good communication skills
Driving skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Accounting Graduate / Female
With at least 1 year experience in related position

RECEPTIONIST
College Graduate / Level
At least 5'3" in height
With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may bring their comprehensive resumé at:
SPECTRUM SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
239 Col. Santos Street,
South Cembo, Makati City
Tel. 883-22-08

WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

JAPANESE Chef
SEAFOOD Cook

call: **450-1900/450-1749**
619 Remedios St., Malate, Manila

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
Growing Metrology Labs is in need of

CALIBRATION Technicians & Engineers
REPAIR Technicians

Qualifications: foreign training or experience a +
Mail Resumé to:
MK 135
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

Amkor Technology

Enabling A Microelectronic World®

Amkor Technology is the world's largest provider of contract microelectronic assembly and test solutions. For more than 30 years Amkor has been a strategic manufacturing partner for the world's leading semiconductor companies. As the market leader, Amkor fortifies its leadership edge by focusing on its competitive strengths: **Broad offering of Package Design, Packaging, and Test Services; Leading Technology Innovation; and Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities.** Amkor is publicly listed at the NASDAQ Stock Exchange (AMKR)

Adhering to the highest quality standards, Amkor has achieved certifications in **QS, ISO, and SAC**. As a dynamic performer, it has received numerous citations from prominent customers and various awards from the **Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philippine Quality Awards, Personnel Management of the Philippines, and the Department of Labor and Employment.**

Amkor is inviting individuals with the following competencies to be a part of its dynamic team:

- **Thriving in challenges and growth** - pursues positive change; flexible in changing situations; motivated to contribute in a growing environment
- **Learning with speed and continuity** - embraces new and diverse ideas; embraces technological change for business and self growth
- **Focusing on quality and results** - delivers positive and measurable results; achieves tactical and strategic goals
- **Managing diversity** - welcomes different styles and methods; responds to diverse customer needs
- **Achieving in competition** - Sets high-quality, challenging but realistic goals for self and others; taps edge to full advantage to be ahead of competition; always drives for success

Open positions for Amkor's current and strategic needs:

Managers: Production (code: MP) and Process/Engineering (code: MPE) for both assembly and test, Maintenance (code: MM), Quality (code: MQ), Customer Service (code: MCS), Technical/ Development (code: MTD), Industrial Eng'g (code:MIE), Information Technology (code: MIT)

Technical Staff: Production Supervisors (code: TPS), Process Engineers (code: TPE),Equipment Engineers (code: TEE), Test/Product Engineers (code: TTP), Test Development Engineers (code: TTD), RF Test Software Development Engineers (code: TRT), Customer Service Representative (code:TCS), PCB/SMT Senior Buyers (code: TSB), PC Planners (code: TPC), Industrial Engineers (code: TIE)

Please send your resumés indicating the position codes which can be found in the parentheses. Those with experience in BGA, SMT/PCB, RF, and MLF technologies will be given priority.

Interested parties may send their resumés with the corresponding position code before Dec. 5 to: **Manpower Planning Department, Amkor Technology Philippines, KM 22, East Service Road, South Super Highway, Muntinlupa City, 1702** or email: **chgar@amkor.com or medul@amkor.com**

Punongbayan & Araullo

Joining us now could be your best career move.

We have career opportunities for

TAX SENIOR MANAGERS

Current developments in the public accounting profession have created a trend towards requiring separate service providers for audit and non-audit services. This trend has created tremendous opportunities for our well-established tax practice. In response to these opportunities, we are currently expanding our Tax Advisory & Compliance Division.

We need experienced lawyers, CPA-lawyers or CPAs who have at least 5 years of tax work experience obtained from law firms, CPA firms, or relevant government offices in such areas as business organization and reorganization; national and local taxation and international taxation; and tax compliance audit. We want highly competent, mature and self-motivated individuals with outstanding academic credentials, exceptional interpersonal skills and excellent command of written and oral English.

We offer competitive salaries and benefits, many opportunities to grow, the challenge of working directly with clients, the excitement of looking for innovative solutions, and all the rewards of working with some of the best tax professionals in one of the country's leading professional services organizations.

We invite you to bring your resume to the HR & Communication Division of Punongbayan & Araullo, 19th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City; email it to Fred.V.Damian@pna.ph; or fax it to him at 886-5591. For inquiries, please call 886-5511 local 725. Visit us at http://www.punongbayan-araullo.com

Get your career on track. Make a move now.

Member of Grant Thornton International

THE BAKE SHOP

Max's® RESTAURANT
Max masarap!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

at MAX'S BAKESHOP, a proud member of Max's Restaurant Group which is cited as the 2003 Top Restaurant Chain by the National Consumers Quality Awards, for hiring in January 2004

R & D SPECIALISTS

- Graduates of Food Technology or Food Science Education
- Minimum of 3 years relevant experience in research and development gained in a reputable bakery or bakeshop establishment
- Must be willing to be assigned at Max's Bakeshop Plant located at FTI Complex, Taguig, MM

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

- Graduates of Food Technology or Food Science Education
- Minimum of 2-3 years supervisory experience in bakery or bakeshop production.
- Must be willing to be assigned at Max's Bakeshop Plant located at FTI Complex, Taguig, MM

We are also in need of the following for our Max's Restaurant HRD Office/branches:

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS (for HRD Office)

- Male/Female, Psychology graduates, with solid experience in recruitment for all levels of the organization;
- Exposure in restaurant/service industry setting an advantage.
- Must be organized, innovative, & dynamic, with above average written & oral communication skills.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

- Male/Female, graduates of marketing or any related courses and are computer literate;
- Have solid experience in LSM (from conceptualization to post evaluation);
- Must have above average communications and interpersonal skills.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, college graduates, preferably of HRM, Tourism, PR, Business Administration, Mass Communication, Marketing, and other related courses;
- Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

We also process applications for Busboys/Waiters, Customer Service Assistants, Riders, Cooks, Kitchen Helpers, and Janitors/Dishwashers.

Note: Previous applicants need not apply.

Interested applicants may send their resumes, photocopy of transcript of records and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Max's Scout Tuazon Branch
21 Sct. Tuazon St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City
E-mail: hrd@maxschicken.com

WANTED FINANCE OFFICER

WORK EXPERIENCE PREFERRED
IN LENDING/CREDIT
PHIL UND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING (PUSH)
Tel No: 911-7918
Email: push@philonline.com

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Can be assigned from area
- Not more than 30 years old
- Female, Single & computer literate

Apply at: 437-D A. Juan St., San Juan, M.M.
or Call: 725-1114

An army of a thousand is easy to find, but ah...

Napoleon Bonaparte crossing the Alps
by Louis David

...How difficult to find a general.

(Chinese Proverb)

We're looking for outbound agents with leadership potential to staff the first ever teams of the in-house call center Of the largest US-based interactive promotional products company

If you have:

- ✓ Around a year's experience handling business to business campaigns
- ✓ The willingness to work with shifting schedules
- ✓ Excellent sales and communication skills
- ✓ Any four-year college degree
- ✓ A creative flair and the ability to think on your feet
- ✓ The desire to be BIG

Then you might actually be what we're looking for

Serious applicants may drop off their resumes at
Asia Select
6/F Athenaeum Building, 160 Leviste Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST TO BE PART OF THE FIRST AND THE BEST...

Philippine AXA Life, a joint venture between Metrobank, one of the largest banks in the Philippines, and the AXA Group, one of the world's largest life insurers, is looking for enthusiastic, results-oriented and highly competitive candidates to join its elite BankAssure work force who has preference working or residents of METRO MANILA, OLONGAPO, DAGUPAN, BATANGAS, LAGUNA, PAMPANGA, BAGUIO, BENGUET, LA UNION, CEBU & DAVAO, GENERAL SANTOS, COTABATO, MARBEL, KIDAPAWAN, TACURONG & MIDSAYAP.

BANKASSURE AREA MANAGERS (BAM)

The position entails motivating, inspiring and leading a team of professional advisers to meet sales targets by objectively evaluating and assessing performance against agreed standards.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 25 – 40 years old
- Must be a college graduate with at least 2 years business experience with a successful track record in sales or customer service environment.
- Must have managerial experience

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES (FE)

The position entails meeting with clients, analyzing their personal financial background, advising them on appropriate action to be taken and concluding the sale of appropriate products and services and a lot of relationship building.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 25 – 35 years old
- Must be a College graduate with at least 2 years professional experience with a successful track record not necessarily in the Financial Services Industry
- A background in pharmaceutical, airlines, stock trading, real estate, retail sales, banking or insurance will be an advantage

SKILLS & QUALITIES OF THE AREA MANAGER & FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE:

- Good interpersonal skills
- Excellent oral & written communication skills (Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage)
- Sound analytical / numerical skills
- Effective judgment and comprehension
- Confident disposition/positive nature & outlook
- Ability to listen

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" photo by Friday, 28th of November 2003 to

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2390, Makati City
or
may.soneja@axa.com.ph or fax: (02) 844-3911

Philippine AXA Life will offer chosen candidates a salary-based package plus excellent incentives, comprehensive training, and a very rewarding career in the financial services industry.

Member of the Metrobank Group

A transnational company engaged in marketing and distribution of branded household and personal care products is in need of qualified

sales personnel

for their Philippine expansion.

We are looking for:

- An expert in all facets of distributorship management in fast moving consumer goods. He could have been former distributor sales personnel who started with van selling, then promoted to manage key accounts and eventually tasked to handle entire operations.
- With extensive exposure to trade marketing and merchandising including but not limited to in-store promotions, handling of promo girls, blitz among others.
- A self-starter, thinker, doer rolled into one and work with less supervision. At least a college graduate, no more than 30 years old and computer literate.
- Successful candidates will be tasked to manage distributors in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao. Thus, applicants from VISMIN are also welcome.

If you have what we're looking for, please submit comprehensive resumé to:

gentlesupremephil@yahoo.com

no later than 25th of October 2003. Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

5-STAR HOTEL TRAINING

(With Hotel Certification Upon Completion)

On-The-Job Training Courses For The Following Areas in Hotel & Restaurant Operations:

- **Front Office Operations (Front Desk / Bell Service)**
- **Food & Beverage Operations (Bar & Restaurant operations)**
- **Housekeeping Operations (Room & Public Attendant)**
- **Laundry Operations**
- **Kitchen Operations**
  - Butchery
  - Coffee Shop Operations
  - Cold Section / Salads, etc.
  - Hot Section / Specialty Cooking
  - Hygiene & Sanitation
  - Inventory & Cost Control
  - Pastry Section
- **Stewarding Operations (Utility)**

Be Qualified to Work in International Hotels, Restaurants & Luxury Cruise Liners and EARN USSSS!!

ARCHER RESOURCES
Consultancy & Training Center
Room 1403, 14th Floor Victoria Building
United Nations Avenue cor. L.M. Guerrero Street
Ermita, Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telefax: (632) 536-9030
Training Coordinator: Ms. Geraldine Yap Argayoso

CONSOLIDATED BUILDING MAINTENANCE, INC.

A Building Service Contractor

Is in need of:

I. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Female, 30 years old and above
- With MBA Units preferred
- Experience in a service industry such as Hotels, Hospitals and Building Contractors is an edge
- Must process strong analytical skills and knowledge in different computer applications

II. LICENSE CHEMICAL ENGINEER

- Female, 30 years old and above
- At least three (3) years experience in the formulation and production of cleaning chemicals, waxes and other cleaning solutions

III. BENEFITS/HRD SUPERVISOR

- Female, 30 years old and above
- Well versed in different benefits offered by SSS, PhilHealth, and Pag-Ibig
- Must posses strong personality
- Preferable a degree in Business Administration major in Acconting

Please send your resumé
c/o HRD Manager at e-mail address:
cbmserve@info.com.ph
or at
G/F Jovan Condominium, Samat St., Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 533-2117; 533-3492

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PRODUCT MANAGER (Toilet & Bath Accessories)
- experienced in the marketing of taps and fittings as well as toilet repair products and bath accessories
- familiar with the DIY Industry and other hardware outlets
- a good team leader, must be able to get the best out of the company's other operating departments

PRODUCT MANAGER (Architectural & Building Fixtures)
- with adequate experience and know-how in marketing to the construction industry, specifically to architects, contractors, etc.
- preferably with exposure to door and window sealants, closers etc. and experience in handling glass and aluminum building components

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- preferably but not necessarily a CPA; computer literate
- with auditing experience and exposure to multiple product lines
- ability to speak Chinese , an advantage

HRD SUPERVISOR
- proficient in the formulation of personnel policies and procedures fitted to specific personnel categories and tasks
- familiar with labor laws affecting all aspects of employment
- experienced in recruitment and training processes
- can command respect of the rank and file

Send your Bio-Data with recent photo to
Box # KA-009-03 DB
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila or to e-mail: daveb822@hotmail.com

PNOC Energy Development Corporation

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The largest Energy Company in the country which belongs to the top 100 corporations of the Philippines invites you to be part of its dynamic and top caliber personnel. Apply now in any of the following positions:

Computer Auditors

- Applicants must be graduates of BS Computer Science or BS Industrial Engineering
- With at least two years experience in IT Audit
- Preferably a Certified Internal Auditor or its equivalent and proficient in computer programming or audit

Staff Auditors

- Applicants must be graduates of BSC major in Accounting, BS Accountancy or BS Industrial Engineering
- With at least two years experience in internal or external audit
- Preferably a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) or its equivalent

Applicants should not be more than 35 years old, must possess good oral and written communication skills, analytical and can inter-act well with other people.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

HRMD – Manpower Planning And Employment
P.O. Box 2102
Makati Central Office, Makati City
or at email address: **manplan_emp@energy.com.ph**

A Progressive Real Estate Company needs:

TOP CALIBER BROKERS

Qualifications:

1. Must be Licensed
2. Willing to Sell Cavite Project Low Cost Housing TCP – 250,000.00 to 500,000.00

Interested applicants may call our office at tel. no. (02) 694-3150 or (049) 243-5185 and look for Ms. Rosette Bondad.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Needed immediately Japanese, Korean and Mandarin speaking staff with pleasing personality to be detailed at the Department of Tourism (DOT), Tourist Assistance Counter, Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) I & II.

Submit your resumé to the Philippine Convention & Visitors Corporation (PCVC), 4th Flr., Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Boulevard, Manila Fax No.: 5216165 / 5253314, or thru Email: ttu@dotpcvc.gov.ph

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WANTED

Marketing Representative

needed by Reputable Computer Company.
- Female with Pleasing Personality
- College Degree with knowledge of Computer, Networking, Banking Peripherals

Please submit biodata with photo a

155 Congressional Ave. Congressional Village 111, Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City
Tel. No. 927-27-82 / 920-7045
Look for: Glenn Cabuyao

AGRI-DYNAMICS AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ALDEC)
is in need of

1 Veterinarian

- Male, 21-35 years old
- graduate of Veterinary Medicine
- licensed, with experience & with
- full knowledge in Poultry & Piggery

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé & credentials at:
ALDEC Office: T. Claudio St., San Pedro, Morong, Rizal or may call Tel. Nos. 653-0026, 653-0165 and look for Sophie

---

MARCEL TRADING CORPORATION

5/F, 926 Araneta Ave., Q.C./Tel. 712-2631
or e-mail at: hr@marcelcarrageenan.com

We are in urgent need of the following:

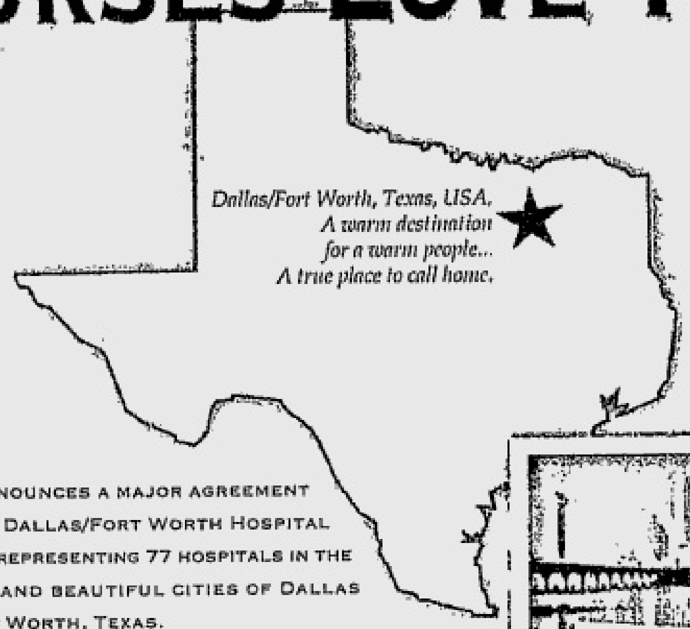
MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS

Graduates of:
- ☑ Food Technology, Chemistry, Marketing, Management, Chemical Engineering

Knowledge in:
- ☑ Computer Applications (at least knowledgeable in MS programs)
- ☑ Research methods and techniques
- ☑ Methods of reports preparation
- ☑ Writes well
- ☑ Fluent in English
- ☑ With at least 6 months experience in related field

Please apply in person w/ your resumé, 2x2 photo & TOR.

NURSES LOVE TEXAS!



HCCA ANNOUNCES A MAJOR AGREEMENT WITH THE DALLAS/FORT WORTH HOSPITAL COUNCIL, REPRESENTING 77 HOSPITALS IN THE EXCITING AND BEAUTIFUL CITIES OF DALLAS AND FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

Would you like to live and work in America? *Let HCCA make you a part of our nursing family in the USA, at absolutely no cost to you.* The opportunity includes:

- Excellent variety of medical facilities
- 500 position openings in next 24 months
- Free and fast H-1B and E-3 US visa processing
- Free reviews, NCLEX and US travel
- US $22 - US$26 per hour plus OT and shift diff.
- US $6,000 bi-annual bonus
- Interviews begin November 17-28

You'll pay no legal fees, no professional fees and no hidden costs. We pay for everything, so you can enjoy an exciting new career in the USA.

To qualify, you must be currently employed in a 150+ bed hospital and be fluent in English. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any, and any results of CGFNS/ NCLEX/ TOEFL/TSE/IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos.

HCCA INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Apply to the **POEA Government Placement Branch**, windows P & O, ground floor, left wing, POEA Building EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong Tel. 722-1174 or 722-1175 or your local POEA office. Applications may also be picked up at **HCCA Makati** offices 33rd/F Tower 1, Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner of Paseo De Roxas, Makati City (63)2 757-1000. Web site: www.hccaintl.com

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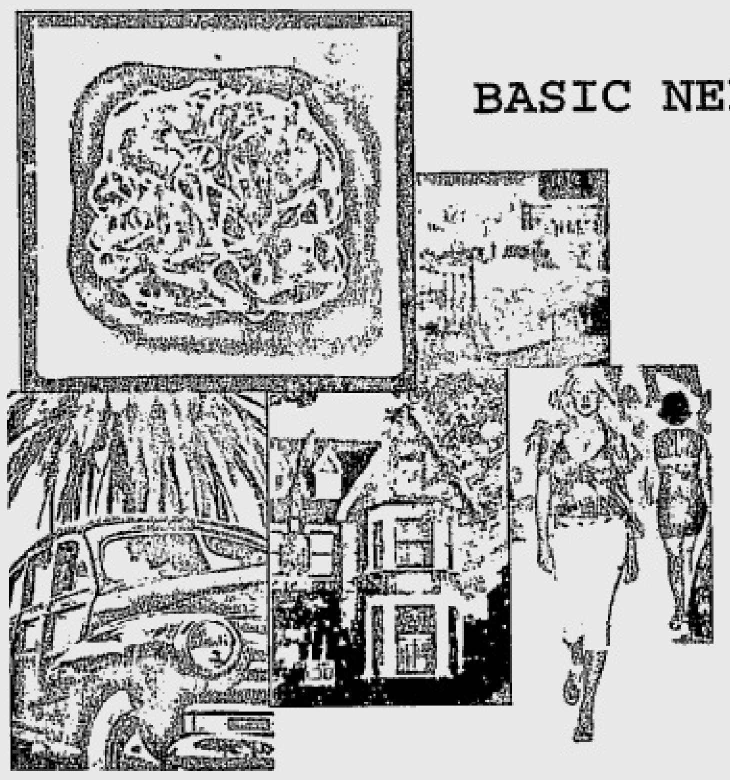
BASIC NEEDS



Trivia: All your basic needs are represented by the Fortune 1000 companies

Further trivia: We represent the Fortune 1000 companies

Looking for **inbound call center representatives**

If you consider yourself tech savvy and service oriented, if you've got excellent English communication skills and the willingness to work with shifting schedules...

If you've got the drive to succeed... And if you want to be part of the pioneer team Of one of the most stable call centers worldwide...

Then send your resume and a letter of intent to
MCPO Box 2323
Makati City 1263
Philippines

* Only serious applicants need apply

WANTED BY A TIN CAN MFG. CO.
Willing to be assigned to Laguna

BUYER/PURCHASING OFFICER

- Male 22-26 years old
- Industrial/Mechanical Eng'r Grad
- Preferably with 1-2 years purchasing experience
- Good interpersonal, communication & writing skills
- Adept knowledge of computer application

QA MANAGER

- Licensed Chemical Eng'r
- Not more than 35 years old
- With experience in setting up quality control systems, ISO 9001/9002 systems
- Good leadership, communication & writing skills

TECHNICAL TRAINEE

- Mechanical/Electrical Eng'r Grad
- Male; 22-28 years old
- Preferably with experience in can mfg or lithography

Tel. 631-9995/746-1286
Address: #2 San Lucas St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Venture for Fund Raising, a Manila-based non-profit organization that is a leader in providing technical assistance on fund raising to other non-profits in the Philippines and around Asia, is in search of 2 new team members.

Manager for Communications and Development, Senior Level

Reports to the Executive Director

Responsibilities:

- Design and implement the overall communications strategy for the organization, and as required write press releases, articles, and develop marketing communication materials
- Develop and implement an individual and corporate philanthropic fund raising strategy
- Provide executive staff support for the board of trustees

We are inviting application from candidates with the following profile:

- Has an appreciation of the non-profit sector and believes in the goals of Venture for Fund Raising (www.venture-asia.org)
- Intelligent and dynamic, with a strong sense of commitment and team spirit.
- Results oriented and attentive to detail
- Has excellent written and oral communication skills
- Has excellent organizational and project management skills
- At least 3 years successful work experience in related fields - corporate communications, marketing communications, public relations, advertising, fund raising
- BS / MS in related fields
- Fund raising experience, event management and html/web site updating skills are preferable.

Manager for Consulting Services, Senior Level

Reports to the Director for Programs

Responsibilities:

- Identify, cultivate and develop relationships with potential fund raising consulting clients
- Develop consulting proposals that correctly diagnose client needs and recommend appropriate interventions
- Implement consulting projects-provide excellent project management and customer service
- Contribute actively to the organization's knowledge management efforts

We are inviting application from candidates with the following profile:

- Has an appreciation of the non-profit sector and believes in the goals of Venture for Fund Raising (www.venture-asia.org)
- Intelligent and dynamic, with a strong sense of commitment and team spirit.
- Customer oriented and with strong interpersonal skills
- Results oriented and attentive to detail
- Has excellent written and oral communication skills
- Has excellent organization and project management skills
- At least 3 years successful work experience in related fields – consulting, corporate planning, account management, marketing, business development
- BS / MS in related fields

Please send a Letter of Application, together with your comprehensive resumé (include sample of work if relevant) and a recent photograph to: The Director for Operations, Venture for Fund Raising, 2801 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center 1605, Pasig City (or by e-mail to rica@venture-asia.org). Deadline for applications is on November 30, 2003.

WE WANT THE BEST & THE BRIGHTEST

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

A Senior Management key Man who will be responsible in planning, directing and coordinating finance, collection and investment activities of the Corporate Group.

- Male or Female, graduate from a reputable school
- CPA, with MBA degree either from AIM or UP or Top US MBA School
- With very strong hands-on controllership experience
- Should be able to handle the entire investment activities of the company and its trust funds
- Should be able to provide broad financial advise on economic fundamentals, both short-term and long-term, to the different companies within the group
- Should be able to provide key business and financial indicators at which the companies in the group should operate to satisfy the Group's short and long-term profitability, liquidity and stability goals
- Experience in overseas investments a plus
- Experienced in banking, stockbrokering, underwriting, and currency trading

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Reporting directly to the President, you are tasked to handle the financial affairs and direction of subsidiary companies, maximize the use of its fiscal resources and assure financial viability and profitability.

- Experienced in controllership functions involving accounting controls, financial analysis, systems procedures and general internal control
- Can perform auditing and controlling functions to deal with the company's financial and marketing operations, if necessary
- Can write reports well and review financial and operational reports critically
- Can monitor disbursements, recommend procedures or procedural improvements in the cash flow operations of the subsidiaries
- Good in financial evaluation and critical analysis
- Has knowledge and preferably competent in investments in the stock market and equities
- Preferably with an MBA, with experience, with experience in companies engaged in financial services
- Preferably a CPA, at least 25 but not more than 35 years old.

AUDIT HEAD

The Audit Head is primarily tasked to establish, improve auditing policies and procedures, directing the team towards efficient and effective accomplishment of objectves.

- CPA, 28 to 35 years old
- Has dependable knowledge in systems and computer audit
- Extensive auditing knowledge and experience from any reputable accounting firms

ALL ARE SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS, AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE IS OPEN

Send applications thru e-mail to *executive_search@platinumplans.com* or fax to 811-0679.

Be part of the team that is
Shaping tomorrow's lifestyle

Biggest real estate development group of companies with world class projects is inviting qualified candidates to fill positions vital to its ongoing projects.

Sales Managers

- Must be results and systems oriented.
- At least 2 years experience in sales.
- Must have the ability to select, train and motivate sales personnel.

Above industry compensation packages, commissions and a definite career path advancement await all successful applicants.

Please handcarry your comprehensive resume and Look for ***Ms. Rowena Mendoza***
21/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave. Cor. Makati Ave. 1200 Makati City

CENTURY COMMUNITIES
a member of the
CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP
epj@century-properties.com

LEXBER, INC.

NEEDS THE FOLLOWING FOR ITS EXPANSION:

ACCOUNTANT BOOKKEEPER

Interested applicants for the above positions should submit their resumé & fill-up application form from November 24 (Monday) to 28 (Friday), 2003 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at:

#63 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
(infront of St. Mary's College)

Qualifications:

- *Preferably Quezon City resident, single*
- *Male or Female, 24 to 35 years old*
- *Accounting graduate*
- *Proficient in oral & written communication*
- *Aggressive and highly motivated*

CARDS CENTER

Unit Manager

To handle a team of 15
Single 25-40 years old
Experienced in Management or Sales
Office base in Makati/Ortigas

EARN P 30,000

CREDITEL CORP Accredited Service Provider of Citibank N.A.
7th/F Citibank Sq., Libis Q.C. November 24 & 25 — 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Look for Vannesa

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URGENTLY NEEDS....

JUNIOR MANAGER
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
CORPORATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

45-GRADUATES OF: PT, OT, RT, BSN & any MED. courses
* License of Non-License & good pleasing personality
30-GRADUATES OF: IE, ECE, EE, ME, CE & Archl.
* Self-motivated & willing to undergo training
20-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Educ., Philo & Psyc
* Managerial skill is an advantage
12- GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses.
* Creative, good analysis & hardworking

** Age 20 to 35 years old, with or w/o experience. Willing to be assign in diff. positions available in the company.
** Hiring starts on Nov. 24-28, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM). Accepted applicants from Nov. 24-28, 2003 will start immediately.

NO EXAMINATION GIVEN

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resume original credential and 2x2 picture at:

#235-C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n., Pasay City (near Saver's Square & Allied Bank, walking distance from MRT Taft & LRT Edsa station)

Look for MS. ESTRADA

WSI CHECKERING, INC.

2nd Flr., Velco Centre Cor. S. Roberto Oca & Antonio Delgado Sts., Port Area Manila
Tel. Nos. 527-40-74 to 78
Fax Nos. 526-0053 & 521-7432

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS
TRUCK TRAILER DRIVERS
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ALL APPLICANTS must have a minimum of 3 years experience
Age should be 20 yrs. old & above

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR ALL POSITIONS MUST APPLY PERSONALLY & BRING THE FOLLOWING:

1. Resumé w/ picture (passport size)
2. Certificate of employment.

AT: WORLD SHIPPING INFONET, INC.
2F RM 255/257 Velco Ctre. Cor Roberto S. Oca & Antonio Delgado Sts.
Port Area, Manila and look for Ms. YVETH P. GUEVARRA

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Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Translator

The successful candidate will translate technical and news articles for both Electronic Engineering Times – Korea print and online versions as well as other editorial support work required for Electronic Engineering Times Korea Editorial.

You should be a degree holder, preferably in Communications or related discipline. The successful candidate must have good translation skills in English/Korean and vise versa for periodical work for print and online projects. Experience in English/Korean translation of technical publications and technical knowledge of electronics, computer and telecommunication products will be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (IIE)

Internationally recognized non-profit organization seeks an international program officer for a USAID/ US-Asia Environmental Partnership funded position based in IIE's Manila Office

Program Officer - Environmental Exchange Division

S/he will work with USAID/USAEP country manager, partners and US & Bangkok based IIE staff to develop, coordinate & implement exchange programs; and to create and nurture sustainable US- Philippines partnerships. S/he will serve as IIE's primary representative in the Philippines for all activities and will manage Manila office & staff.

Qualifications:
- Previous experience managing international development projects
- Previous USAID or multi-lateral program experience desirable
- Bachelors degree + 5 years relevant professional experience required. Masters degree, environmental experience a plus.
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Self starter, good judgement, strong team player and able to work with minimum supervision required

Please send a cover letter, resume, 3 references, and current and expected salary to:
Fax No: (632) 890-6414; or email to: iie_phil@mozcom.com

B|BRAUN

We are a multi-national company engaged in promotion and sales of medical supplies. It is our aim to continuously provide the best customer service possible.

In line with our expansion program, we are in need of highly motivated individuals to fill-up the positions of:

PROFESSIONAL HOSPITAL SPECIALISTS

(for GMA, Cebu & Davao)

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, not over 28 years old
- College graduate of any business or science course
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Experience in a pharmaceutical company an advantage but not required
- With good oral communication skills, personable, confident, hardworking and assertive
- Can drive with a valid driver's license

Please send your letter of application, resume, transcript of records and a recent photo to the address below on or before December 8, 2003. **Previous applicants need not apply.**

B BRAUN MEDICAL SUPPLIES, INC.
Attention: HR & ADMIN DEPARTMENT
2/F JMT Building, ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax: (032) 633-7298

For Cebu & Davao applicants please send your application to:
Mr. Tito Bagaloyos
C/o Zuellig Pharma Corporation (Cebu Branch)
Dr. F. E. Zuellig Ave. cor. Circumferential Road,
New Mandaue City, Cebu
Or
C/o Zuellig Pharma Corporation (Davao Branch)
Bo. Tigato, Buhangin, Davao City

WANTED

BARBERS
HAIR DRESSERS
MANICURISTS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male or Female
- At least 21 years old
- Pleasing personality
- Good moral character
- At least 1 year experience

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GOOD COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AWAIT YOU INCLUDING REGULAR EMPLOYMENT WITH SSS AND PAG-IBIG AND COMMISSION.

FOR INTERESTED APPLICANT, PLESE CONTACT AND/OR SEND YOUR BIO-DATA TO:

GWAPO'T MAGANDA
OKPHIL Building
1301 Estrada St., Cor. Osmeña Highway
Malate, Manila
Telephone Nos. 522-4170 / 525-8440
Fax No.: 525-7801
e-mail: mejg1438@i-manila.com.ph
Look for: NIA / EDLLENE

Are you...

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- Proficient in MS Excel and MS Word?
- A fast learner with good memory?
- Able to adapt well in different situations?
- Results-oriented?
- Diligent & industrious?
- Willing to work extended hours?
- Familiar with world geography?

If you are, then **YOU** may be the person to fill the position of **ANALYST** or **ASSISTANT ANALYST**. If you're interested, drop by during office hours with your Comprehensive resumés, bio-data, and 2x2 ID photo.

World Shipping Infonet, Inc.
2nd Floor, Velco Centre Bldg.,
Delgado St., cor. Oca St., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila

Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor Mindanao, Inc.

BWSC

JOB OPPORTUNITY

FOR : **1st/2nd Marine Engineer License**
Licensed Mechanical Engineer

We are in urgent need of personnel for Power Barge 118 at Maco, Compostela Valley with the following qualifications:

2nd Engineer Position

- Experience in 2-stroke or 4-stroke diesel engines
- Has ocean-going vessel experience or work experience from diesel power plants
- Ages 30-40 years old
- Excellent in verbal and written English
- In good health and of good moral character

Job Description:
Daily work operation of 100MW diesel power plant equipped with 2 x 12K90MC-C diesel engines.

Mechanical Fitter Position

- Experienced in 2-stroke or 4-stroke diesel engines
- With Fitter/Mechanic work experience from diesel power plant or ocean-going vessel
- Ages 30-40 years old
- Excellent in verbal and written English
- In good health and of good moral character

Job Description:
Work in maintenance team, carrying out maintenance of 12K90MC-C 2-stroke diesel engines.

Competitive salary and benefits awaits qualified applicant.

Please apply in person (with comprehensive resumé and application letter) to the address below:

BWSC MINDANAO, INC.
Daruma Bldg., Km. 7 Lanang, Davao City (beside Alcantara & Sons)
Tel. No. (082) 234-2247 / 234-2764
Fax No. (082) 234-2208

We are a multi-national company engaged in the business of power generation currently operating and maintaining power barges at Maco, Compostela Valley and Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

Our parent company is based in Denmark and is servicing the power generation sector worldwide.

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Experience on the following required:

- Hands-on in systems administration
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- Active Directory experience in a Windows 2000 and XP environments
- Exchange Server 2000 hands-on maintenance supporting a company mail server
- Configuration and Operation/Maintenance of Internet Information Server 4.0 and/or 5.0
- Perform data backups on company LAN
- SQL Server 7.0 administration in maintenance role
- Installing Microsoft updates, patches and bugs fixes
- LAN troubleshooting
- CISCO IOS experience (a plus)
- TELCO configuration experience (a plus)

Interested applicants can personally submit their updated resumes at our office or send it through fax or e-mail.

29/F IBM PLAZA BUILDING, EASTWOOD CITY,
LIBIS, QUEZON CITY 1100
TEL 911.8866 / FAX 911.8854
jobs@webservasia.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Invitation for Application/Nomination for the Presidency of the Philippine State College of Aeronautics will be vacant soon.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

a. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen of the Philippines;
b. Must be a holder of a Master's degree or preferably a Doctorate degree holder;
c. At least five (5) years of managerial and administrative experience;
d. Known for probity and moral integrity; and
e. Preferably 40 years old or over.

Applications should be accompanied with the following:
a. Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
b. Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College in five (5) pages; typewritten, double-spaced;
c. Medical Certificate from any government hospital; and
d. Transcript of Records, Diplomas of degrees earned.

In addition to the above-mentioned requirements, applicants must be able to submit the following clearances:

a. Ombudsman
b. Civil Service Commission (CSC)
c. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
d. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric examination from any government hospital

Interested applicants are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and supporting documents not later than December 30, 2003 to:

DR. NILO L. ROSAS
Chairman
Search Committee for PhilSCA Presidency
c/o Philippine Normal University
Taft Avenue, Manila
Fax No. (02) 536-64-71

We are looking for:

SPECIAL ALLOY ELECTRODES SALES MANAGER & SALES ENGINEERS

- At least 3 years experience in selling special alloy electrodes
- Managerial experience for Sales Manager, able to supervise activities of sales engineers
- College graduate
- Good communication skills
- Pleasant personality
- Male or Female

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- At least 5 years experience as secretary or assistant to a senior executive
- Good written and oral communication skills
- College graduate
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint
- Organized and systematic
- Pleasant personality

Applicants may send in their complete bio-data (including work experience and references) with recent 2"x2" or passport-sized colored photo to:

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 985
MANILA

Or e-mail said requirements to: applicants200311@hotmail.com

Mahatma Gandhi International School

On its second year, this thriving new school is looking to recruit additional teachers for **school year 2004-05**. Vacancies exist for:

- **Elementary School Teachers (Kinder -Grade 6)**
- **High School Teachers**

Our team of excellent staff is sourced from local and expatriate backgrounds. If you think that you have the qualifications, experience and qualities required to succeed in this environment then we would like to hear from you.

Applicants are requested to send a CV and a letter of application together with a recent photo, stating clearly the post applied for to the address given below. All applicants should be fluent in written and spoken English and hold a relevant degree, preferably with IB Primary Years and Middle Years Program experience. Applicants for teaching posts are also required to provide a brief statement of their educational philosophy.

Please post applications to:

Mr. Lawrence M. Buck, Headmaster ,
Mahatma Gandhi International School,
3270-A Armstrong Ave., Merville Annex Road, Pasay City M.M.
Applications may also be emailed to mgischool@hotmail.com

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MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC.

a leading real estate company in the country is expanding its personnel and sales network.

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENTS FOR SALES OPERATIONS
Male or female, 35-40 years old. With 10 years experience in realty sales; minimum of 5 years experience in real estate in a managerial capacity.

SALES OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR VERTICAL PROJECTS
Male or female, with at least 5 years experience in sales and marketing of condominium projects; effective management skills; able to mobilize and motivate an in-house sales force/broker network.

TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT MANAGER
Male or female. Has extensive experience in training and recruitment of sales force; preferably from the real estate industry; has administrative experience in personnel and office administration; people-oriented with leadership and management skills; can design and implement an effective and relevant training and recruitment plan.

TRAINING OFFICER
Male or female, 23-30 years old, preferably a graduate of Psychology or Marketing, with at least 1 year experience in real estate training and with good communication and writing skills; the successful candidate will handle the continuous design of all training modules.

GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER
Male, 22-30 years old, with at least 1 year experience in building administration services, service vehicle management and sales-service support.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR
Male or female, 21-30 years old, creative and with good communications and writing skills; must have 1 year experience in project management and administrative work.

PROJECT COORDINATORS
Male or female, 22 to 30 years old, preferably with 1 year experience in real estate project management; computer literate; creative, with pleasing personality and good PR skills.

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Male or female, 20-30 years old; preferably with 6 months experience in real estate project management; computer literate; resourceful, creative, with pleasing personality and good PR skills.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Male or female, preferably a graduate of Statistics, Psychology or Marketing, with at least 1 year experience in field research, preferably in geal estate; must be willing to do field work;

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Female, 21-30 years old, preferably with an educational background in Accounting or Commerce, computer literate and with pleasing personality.

MARKETING DIRECTORS
Male or female; with at least 3 years sales experience in real estate; with a ready group of sales directors and sales executives.

SALES EXECUTIVES
Male or female; students, housewives, teachers, retirees with selling skills are welcome to apply.

All applicants are required to submit their resumes to
Training and Recruitment Group
3/F Golden Bay Hotel, 247 Padre Faura St.,
cor. Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 522-7777 loc. 158 or 138

Due to the urgency of the requirements, applications must be received not later than December 12, 2003.

Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc.

ADPRO 2003

1322 GOLDEN EMPIRE TOWER

The tallest, most prestigious condominium address in Roxas Boulevard

We're looking for

SALES DIRECTORS
- 30-40 yrs. old
- 3 years experience as sales manager
- can handle Sales Network

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
- 21-30 yrs. old, college graduate
- has an extensive network
- open to fresh graduates
- has strong drive to succeed
- ambitious and hardworking
- has the right attitude and can work under pressure

For those who qualify we offer...
- an allowance package of P10,000 - P20,000
- commissions of P450,000 and up for just 1 sale
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and look for Tere Felix or Sheila Musico
or call us at 522-7777 loc. 126

Company with 47 years as industry leader

NEEDS
AGGRESSIVE and HARD WORKING MEN and WOMEN as

MEMBERSHIP CLUB MNGR.
For restaurant, dining facilities of exclusive membership club, coffee shop, bar, etc.

MARKETING MANAGERS
Experience not required but sales experience preferred. Allowance plus Commission

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES MUST BE WILLING TO ACCEPT PROVINCIAL & FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS IN HONGKONG, ITALY, US & JAPAN, ETC.

Submit resumé and 2"x2" photo
Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2003
10 AM – 12 NN
Business Center, Lobby
MANILA PENINSULA HOTEL
Ayala Ave., Makati City
Look for Jojo/Joan

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

We are affiliated with one of the Philippines Top 200 Corporations. We urgently need the following for our Direct Sales division:

SALES REPS/TRAINEES

Successful applicants can look forward to the following
- Unlimited Income and Bonuses
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Apply in person every Monday thru Wednesday with your resumé at:

NEOS MARKETING
#14 Eastchem Bldg., Ilang-Ilang St.
(cor. E. Rodriguez Ave.)
New Manila, Quezon City (beside Waters Phils.)
Tel.: 723-0926

THOSE WISHING TO EARN LESS THAN P25,000.00 NEED NOT APPLY.

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big K Supercenter

NOW HIRING for Angeles!

Department Heads
Responsible for the execution of company objectives, achievement of sales and profitability targets, while ensuring the highest level of operation efficiency. Must have minimum 2 years retail experience, at least 26 years old with good interpersonal, organization and planning skills. Analytical, customer-oriented and can relate well with all levels in an organization.

Section Heads
Responsible for inventory and stock management, scheduling, sales forecasting and visual merchandising. Will also be tasked to motivate and maintain an effective and productive team. Must be willing to work a schedule of rotating shifts and weekends. Customer-oriented with excellent leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. Fresh graduates of any business course willing to undergo training are welcome to apply as **Manager Trainees.**

HR Officers
Main responsibility is to assist the HR Manager in ensuring the effective performance of store Human Resource functions in the areas of Recruitment and Selection, Employee Relations, and Benefits Administration. Those with 1-2 years relevant experience in HRMD are preferred.

Store Logistics Officer
Main responsibility is to ensure the efficient and consistent flow of inventory while supervising a team of warehousing and receiving personnel. Those with experience in stock control, warehousing and receiving, gained in a consumer retail environment an advantage. Must be customer-oriented, with a sense of ownership, a keen eye on product quality an advantage.

Technical Support Staff
The ideal candidate must have knowledge in troubleshooting of different brands of PC, workstation, servers, printers and Local Area Network. Must also proficient in Windows NT/2000 server. Exposure in any platform of POS retail applications is an advantage.

Store Visual Artists
Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Architecture/Interior Design or Fine Arts, at least 23 years old. Knowledge in Corel Draw 9.0 and AUTOCADD 2000 an advantage. Creative, organized, and results-oriented.

Accounting/Audit Staff
Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. Must be highly analytical and hardworking.

Interested Applicants may submit their Resume', with Application Letter and 2 x 2 colored Photo by:

Mail : HRMD P.O. Box 13928 Ortigas Post Office
Emerald Ave., Pasig City
Email : HRMD@bigr.com.ph

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Allan Biason at 531 - 1694 / 533 - 1568 to 69

An established group of company, distributing well known Japanese & American hardware brands is looking for professionals for the following positions:

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- with extensive experience in running a computer company
- excellent interpersonal skills and can deal with foreign suppliers
- can work with all levels of people & willing to work long hours
- ability to communicate in Chinese an advantage

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER
- not more than 28 years old, graduate of accg. finance, or related course
- ability to communicate in Chinese an advantage

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
- not more than 28 years old; with pleasing personality, computer literate

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR
- at least 3 years experience both on commercial/residential condo

Qualified applicants may apply in person or submit their resumés via email

HR Department Computer Graphics, Inc. 2/F CGI Bldg.,
#25 Gilmore Ave. cor. Aurora Blvd.,
New Manila, Quezon City (across St. Paul's College)
E-mail: hr@computergraphics.com.ph

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WITH 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION AND GOOD WRITING SKILLS NEEDED BY LAW FIRM BASED AT THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE IN ORTIGAS. GUARANTEED MINIMUM YEARLY INCOME P270.00

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We are looking for top-notch, dynamic, and high caliber performers for the positions of

BETA PRODUCT TESTING TEAM

MANAGER / TEAM LEADER

The beta test manager develops and fully implements a beta test program. In a small company, this person could be the entire program. In a larger corporation, the beta test manager oversees the operation of multiple tests, people, and projects. The beta test manager ultimately owns the responsibility for a successful test.

Responsibilities:

- The beta test manager is focused on developing and continuously improving the policies and procedures that comprise the total beta test program.
- The beta test manager will supervise and mange the different people, resources and budget to maintain a fully functional beta test operation
- The beta test manager's goal is to define the needs, requirements, and expectations that are needed to perform each beta test.
- The beta test manager should have a good rapport with the many people who are involved with the development of a product.
- The beta test manager is expected to train each beta test employee on the purpose, policies, and procedures of the beta test program, and to make sure that the overall operational quality of the program is exceptional. In addition, the beta test manager should be clear on each person's responsibilities and delegate work appropriately.
- The beta test manager should take leadership on all beta test issues. From the scheduling of tests to the deployment of new technologies into the infrastructure, this manager's role is critical to the success of each project. Providing guidance, the beta test manager guides the program to guarantee a low-cost, highly efficient service.
- The beta manager is responsible for establishing a clear, long-term strategy for beta test. These goals should focus on quality and efficiency while involving some aspect of the company's overall mission. By establishing a strategy, a beta test manager can successfully adapt to growth and maintain focus on the program.
- A beta test manager needs to have the comprehensive knowledge of the complete development process. Beta testing evaluates an entire product. When a beta test manager brings a project into test, he or she needs to understand how the issues discovered in test will impact the different organizations and provide guidance on where to distribute test results within the company.
- The Beta test manager must understand all aspects of the beta test process. If necessary, he or she can run a beta test as well as any of the team. The beta test manager needs to be technical enough to support the company's products and operate the program infrastructure. By being able to handle these issues, the beta test manager can maintain the program when difficult situations arise.

Qualifications:

- The beta test manager should have balance in technical competence, customer service skills, and management experience. Ideally, an effective manager has a varied background and a history of focus on the customer.
- A beta test manager must be fully versed in the technology he or she will support.
- The beta test manager must also be an excellent time manager. Beta testing does not flow on a regular path. The sporadic and constantly shifting nature of the product development process makes running a beta program very unpredictable.
- Being flexible and scheduling projects effectively are key qualifications for a good beta test manager.
- The primary activity of beta testing involves interfacing with the customer. Thus, a beta test manager will have excellent customer service skills with an emphasis on communication.

BETA PRODUCT TESTING TEAM

BETA TEST COORDINATOR

The beta test coordinator is the core of the beta test team. Handling the mundane items such as shipping, software duplication, product distribution, parts ordering, or other simple but time-consuming tasks, the coordinator allows other team members to focus on the important issues during the test. The test coordinator does the "maintenance" that keeps the beta test engine running.

Responsibilities:

- The beta test coordinator assists the beta test engineer in the gathering of materials for test, packages them appropriately for distribution, and then ships to the site. If the site has an issue or is not compliance, the coordinator must arrange to get the product form the customer.
- The coordinator must also monitor the cost to ensure that the department is using the most cost-effective methods possible. In addition, there are numerous laws and regulations involved with some products and their distribution.
- The coordinator must be versed in international software distribution and should be able to address issues quickly.
- Another important responsibility is the monitoring of testing progress and contract compliance of all beta test participants.
- The beta test coordinator also manages the countless administrative aspects of a beta test program. Procurement of everything the department needs and the financial duties associated, the coordinator acts as a department administrator to ensure that the needs of the team are met.
- The coordinator is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a filing system for beta test documents, legal paperwork, NDA, and other important items.
- Once test participants complete a project, they receive a reward for their efforts. This reward is part of the beta incentive program. The coordinator is responsible for collecting information about the performance of each tester and then distributing a corresponding award.
- The beta test coordinator makes certain the testers have everything they need to perform the test. Contacting each participant throughout the test, the coordinator acts as a secondary liaison for the test.

Qualifications:

Education or experience is certainly an important qualification for this position. However, the most important for the beta test coordinator is follow through.

Persistence is a key factor in being a successful coordinator. Test participants are often difficult to contact, unresponsive, or slow to communicate. A successful coordinator is able to balance the rigors of mundane daily tasks with the unexpected nature of a development schedule.

The coordinator mixes skills of a department administrator and project manager. The coordinator should have customer service focus, experience working with the public and excellent communication skills

An advantage if you have an **MS in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering,** or other related discipline and solid knowledge of electronics and basic programming skills. **Five+** years automated software test experience with progressing responsibility on Windows and UNIX technologies required. Engineering positions are available as well.

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Street Children Project
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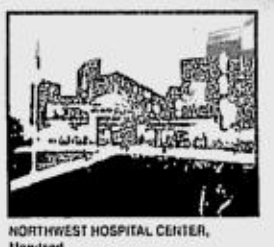
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US-trained HR professional goes home to Ambergris

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

PEOPLE usually choose their careers. But in the case of Cris Rosenthal, the career chose her. She claims, "I didn't choose it (HR), it chose me." Once she trod the HR path, everything just fell into place for Rosenthal.

Cris Rosenthal is an HR professional of international standards owing to over a decade of HR experience gained in the United States. After 12 years of invaluable HR experience in various prestigious multinational companies, Rosenthal finally decided to return to the Philippines and work with Ambergris as its HR Director.

Ambergris Solutions is an offshore outsourcing company that proudly defines itself with its strong management team, highly trained customer interaction professionals, reliable and flexible technology solutions and state of the art facilities.

As HR Director of Ambergris Solutions, it is Rosenthal's job to build good working relationships with all levels in the company from senior executives to rank and file. Handling all functions under HR from recruitment, compensation, benefits, HR systems, labor relations, employee activities and events and organizational development training, Rosenthal claims that she manages from a strategic perspective.

Overseas experience

Rosenthal's long HR journey started at De La Salle University where she had an undergraduate double degree in Psychology and Marketing. After working for two years in Manila, she decided to move to the States to take an MBA. Upon earning her degree, she was set to return to the Philippines. But in spite of the US recession, fate intervened and a job opportunity that she could not pass up was offered.

The job exposed her to human resources work and she never looked back since then. MCI, one of the largest telecommunications company in the US, hired her to start up the HR department of their Boston office. She found HR fit her well and stayed on for 12 years in different industries. "After pursuing my MBA, I saw how HR's role as an ally in the business can impact employees and the overall success of the organization, if positioned properly and supported by executives and other members of top management."

Rosenthal further enhanced her HR expertise in other industries like information technology, biotechnology, medical devices and financial services.

Coming home

Then, last 2000, Rosenthal heeded the call of home. She came back to the Philippines together with her family. "I wanted to allow my husband and two children to immerse themselves in local culture and values that can only be learned by living here," she explains.

Joining Ambergris in May 2003 she, together with the Operations group, spearheaded the company's growth from 650 to where they are today at 1,500 employees. Rosenthal welcomed the daunting task without any qualms. "I thrive in a start-up environment where creativity is key. The company is progressive and rapidly growing in the Philippines."

Team building

Presently Ambergris' HR has a young dynamic cohesive team of 18. Rosenthal proudly claims that her group consists of "progressive thinkers, creative in terms of getting work done to achieve desired results."

This motivator unifies her team to become hard working producers by appreciating and rewarding hard work and talent. "Help them see the big picture and how their work affects operations and overall business results." However, motivation does not stop at recognition alone. "Listen to them and work with them on a development plan to help them get to the next level, or achieve their goals," adds Rosenthal.

Leadership skills

A productive cohesive team starts with a good leader. Rosenthal credits her strong leaderships skills to "empathy and compassion for employees and the ability to see the big picture and correlate HR strategically in terms of how our initiatives can impact the business and the bottom line."

Rosenthal is one of the few people possessing perceptiveness and intuitiveness. She claims she can often "read into the situation" Her job after all, entails good judgment when it comes to reading people.

If she wasn't into human resources work, Rosenthal claims she would probably be in the medical field although she doesn't see herself switching career paths in the future. She avers she loves HR because of its impact on people. "I love making a difference in the lives of employees when you help address concerns or issues."

Evolving

Rosenthal improves herself as an HR leader by "keeping abreast of latest developments, trends and best practices within the HR field." Aside from maintaining a good network of HR practitioners, Rosenthal develops her craft by constantly being on her toes.

Ambergris Soution's high energy and always evolving environment pushes Cris Rosenthal to stay ahead. She is constantly on the look out for individuals who "have the ability to advance one's career through own initiatives and dedication to doing a good job" to join her team.

THE AMBERGRIS team

CRIS Rosenthal, Ambergris HR Director

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

How do you deal.

From page M12

indiscriminate in his objections. Take some of the wind out of his sails by finding out his specific concerns. Then outline how your strategies will address them.

Listen to him in private. Sometimes all a skeptic needs is proof that he's being listened to. Honor him by listening to his concerns, but do it in private so he has no incentive to perform.

Go for the long haul. Skeptics often wear out their welcome over time as people catch on to their chronic negativity. If you can avoid getting too defensive and continue to offer solid arguments for your position, the group's opinion is likely to sway in your direction. Be patient.

Follow these strategies and your skeptic should become less of a problem. Or, if these don't seem like offering enough, take a tip from the Korean researchers. Serve up a big offering of peanuts, fruit and cabbage. And don't bother holding the anchovies.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: Is it possible to make a skeptic less skeptical?

—It's a waste of time to even try, 26.3%

—Frankly, I'm skeptical, 35.4%

—I'm optimistic you can always change someone's attitude, 38.2%

Our winning strategy for dealing with a skeptic comes from H.E.H. in cyberspace. "Being a skeptic myself, I've found that the best way to deal with me has been to be correct. For example, if your software solution is supposed to solve our problems, implement it and show us. Don't make us worry that you're heading us down a blind ally. If the thing you're suggesting has been done before, find a case study, or something in software that we call a pattern—a generalized canned solution that can stop any argument dead in its tracks. But above all, be specific and insistent. Don't be vague. Don't let the conversation get off track. Don't let the audience digress. A lot of us are skeptical because we want to improve things, and it's part of the creative process." *(Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at* bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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- High interpersonal skills and team player
- Strong personal values

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- High interpersonal skills, a team player and strong personal values

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- With advanced branch to branch and branch to head office accounting background
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- High interpersonal skills, a team leader and strong personal values

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- High interpersonal skills, a team player and strong personal values

Executive Secretary (ES)
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- With good command of oral and written English language
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The meaning of...

From page M12

Based on answers to our first question, work is primarily "an opportunity for developing talents and skills." Work as "a source of income for family's needs" emerged only as the second choice. Work as "a means to be of service to others" ranked third. Answers to a follow up question also support these results. The highest ranked choice by 97% of respondents was "work also means using and applying knowledge, skills and talents on the job." Seventy-three percent (73%) chose "work is applying what they learned in school." "Being part of an organization" is also the meaning of work for sixty seven percent (67%). Interestingly, only twelve percent (12%) of our respondents chose the meaning of work as "doing anything as long as it pays." It appears that the economic value of work ranks lower than its self-actualizing and social nature.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Basic needs

The concept of work as "satisfying the basic needs" was only apparent with responses to the second question "what words do you associate with working?" More than sixty-nine percent (69%) of our respondents chose "fulfillment," "challenge" and "growth" as words associated with working. The word "necessity" was chosen by only thirty one percent (31%). When ranked though, "necessity" topped others in order of importance, above "growth" and "challenge" respectively. The word "fulfillment" ranked sixth and last.

The findings of this survey may suggest that for a majority of our respondents performing work satisfies the higher order needs of belongingness and self-esteem. Work means being able to make use of their intellect, learned abilities as well as their God given talents. Working also means being part of a group or organization that provides a sense of community and interaction, where positive relationships with peers and supervisors can be established. At the same time, it also opens our eyes to the reality that while people see the value of work beyond what is basic, it still serves the purpose of providing income for essential needs. With the prevailing economic turmoil and political instability that our country is experiencing, it is not surprising for our respondents to perceive work as a "necessity" or "as a source of income". Putting food on the table and ensuring a secure and stable environment for the family remains an important priority.

Implications

What are some implications of this mini-survey? It is quite enlightening to see that despite difficult times, and the economic status of the respondents, their view of work transcends the lower levels of Maslow's Need Hierarchy. While they acknowledge that work is necessary as it provides for the needs of the family, they also assert that more than the monetary aspect, work which nurtures relationships, growth and self-actualization are important considerations. For employers, this may highlight the value of opportunities for growth, achievement, advancement, responsibility and recognition. Organizations that care for and support people development will probably attract and retain employees who see working as something more than a source of livelihood.

Our final question addressed the issue of work and its capacity to give meaning to one's life. Our respondents agreed most with the statement "The work that I do now gives my life meaning" and "My work gives me identity." They were neutral on the statement "earning a living and doing what they really want are incompatible" and disagree with the statement that "working is only an eight hour job."

Anchor

These findings indicate that our respondents find their work meaningful and an anchor of who they are. For this reason, doing work gives fulfillment over and beyond routine performance of a job. They seem able to balance the demands of livelihood with the meaning that can be derived from it.

Finding meaning in work gives energy and drive and makes each day something to look forward to. To many of us, working will be a way of life. When individuals connect what they really like to do with what they do for pay, they may become totally absorbed with the tasks at hand. The capacity of work to satisfy the highest order need of self-actualization becomes more concrete. When work becomes a vocation, an inclination towards something that one is called to do, a connection between spirit and work is established.

Work then becomes intrinsically rewarding and a source of fulfillment. Achieving a meaningful work life is a process that results in fusion between what we do as a profession and our true essence as individual. That our readers' concept of work seems to be along this path shows that working is not only for making a living, but also for making a life. A truly healthy sign!

Computers in the workplace

People at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

This "pulse" check is conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from last month's respondents are: Samuel Montoya and Jonel Colomba. Please get your gift packages from Ateneo CORD at Tel. No. 426-6065 or 426-5931.

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   b. I share a computer with colleagues
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2. How much of your work time is spent using a computer? (Approximate percentage) ____
3. What do you use the computer for? (Indicate a percentage for each of the following, total should be 100%)
   a. Word processing
   b. Spreadsheet
   c. Email/chatting
   d. Internet
   e. Database
   f. Presentations
   g. Others
4. How did you learn to use the computer?
   a. Self-study/ trial and error
   b. Coaching from others
   c. Attended a training program
   d. Attended computer school
   e. Relied on books/CD tutorials
5. How do you feel about computers? (Put T for true or F for false)
   a. I am afraid to use a computer
   b. It's fun to work on a computer
   c. Computers increase the amount of work I have to do
   d. Computers make me more productive

Name: _____
Nature of Job: _____
Company Name: _____
Industry: _____
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Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development
2nd Flr Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.
Fax No. (632) 426-6065, Email: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph

Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, position, company, address, contact numbers or email.

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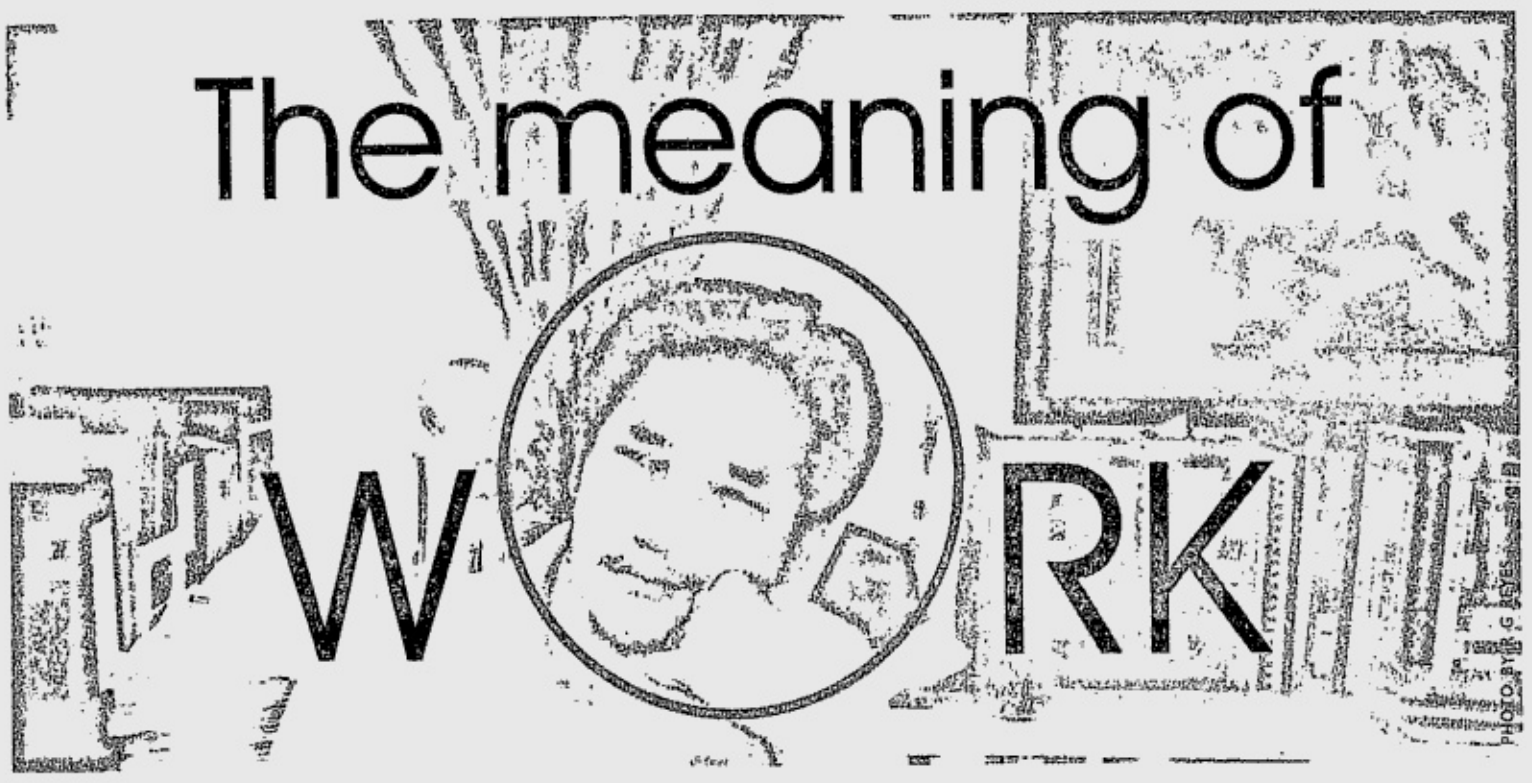
Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

The meaning of WORK



By Joy C. Francisco and Bo Peep P. Franco, Ateneo CORD

WHAT is the fundamental purpose of work in our lives? What value do we attach to it? Can we view work as a means of self-expression? Is it for making a living, or could it also be for making a life?

For some, work is simply a way for a person to earn a living. However, there are others who engage in work for reasons beyond that and consider their work as "vocations."

Changes

Social and economic conditions in recent years have changed dramatically, altering the idea of work for many of us. What are these changes that have so affected our work lives? First, as a result of globalization, the corporation as a lifelong employer no longer exists. Instead, we are encouraged to look at our present work as occasions to improve competencies and enhance employability. Employee recruitment is global and thus, one either finds prospects elsewhere in the world, or one loses his job to someone from another part of the world. The hype over opportunities and material rewards for migrant workers is clouded by the concern over its impact on a divided family.

Second, technological advancement has improved efficiencies and yet has rendered many jobs and professions obsolete if not irrelevant. As we try to cope with the turbulence, stress and pace of change in our environment, the nature and meaning of work has also transformed.

Third, the clamor for work-life balance has become more prevalent, demonstrating that while people recognize the need to work, they have other aspirations.

In this landscape of uncertainty, both employers and employees would benefit from a better understanding of what working really means, and whether it could be more than "just a job to do." Such insights may help improve the quality of working relationships, and quality of work life, in general.

One of the earliest and more popular theories since the 1950s that attempted to explain people's motivation to work is Maslow's Needs Hierarchy Theory. Maslow identified five basic categories of human needs and put them in a hierarchy asserting that the basic needs must first be satisfied before the higher level become motivators. At the base of the hierarchy were *physiological* needs such as food, shelter, air and water. Next came *safety needs*—the need for a secure and stable environment. *Belongingness* includes the need for love, interaction and affection for people. *Esteem* includes need for respect and recognition from others. At the top is *self-actualization*, the need for self-fulfillment, and becoming the best one can be. From Maslow's theory, it may be inferred that work to most people in a developing country would be primarily a means to satisfy the most basic needs—physiological and safety. Would that be true of majority of Filipinos then?

Readers' view

Our survey aimed to find out the meaning of work among our readers. People at Work Pulse posed the following questions: 1) What does "working" mean to you? 2) What words do you associate with working? 3) How do you perceive your work? Among the 39 individuals who responded to the survey, the majority (41%) stated that they perform staff and manual work, 31% are supervisors or managers while the rest (28%) do professional/ technical and sales work. About 62% are from the business sector, 28% from government organizations, while respondents from the academe and non-profit sectors numbered five percent (5%) each.

So what is the meaning of work for our respondents?

THEMEANING/M11

How do you deal with the eternal skeptic?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: There is a guy in my department who drives me crazy. He tries to kill or sabotage any new ideas that anyone suggests. I try to avoid him but recently we were put on the same project so I have to deal with him. Help!

Can't Run, Can't Hide

Speaking of killing things, Korean tradition requires that people make spiritual offerings to honor those who have died. So each year in Seoul, a crowd of people gather to honor all the animals that gave their lives for medical research. Over 100 people attended this year's session. They offered anchovies, peanuts, cabbages, and an arrangement of fruit to honor 51,051 mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and other animals.

Now, as much as you'd like to do to your coworker what he does to your ideas, let me suggest a different approach. Do like the Koreans and make him an offering instead. I'm not suggesting that he's an animal, but if you strategically toss him a few bones you may find that his skepticism turns to support. I've outlined some possibilities below. For more, see Bob Pike's book, "Difficult Participants" (Jossey-Bass, 1997).

Serve up practical examples. Skeptics love to sit in meetings and shoot holes in whatever's being said. And you know what? Half the time they're right! Much of the blather and bluster that goes around in meetings DESERVES to be turned into Swiss cheese. Dodge this problem by loading your suggestions with practical examples and testimonials. The more airtight your position, the less easily he'll be able to shoot it full of holes.

Back up your arguments with hard data. Offering stories and testimonials will feed your skeptic's right brain. Next, you need to feed his left. Use statistics, numbers, research, and any other kind of hard data you can find to support your position.

Address his concerns. Remember that scene in the movie "The Wild Ones" when someone asks Marlon Brando what he's rebelling against and he replies, "What d'you got?" Your skeptic may be as

HOWDOYOU/M10

'Should I include short-term jobs in my resumé?'

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM an engineer and I have been with two companies where I stayed for six months and 15 months respectively. After my second job, I went full-time on graduate studies under a full scholarship grant while teaching part-time in the academe.

Nine months after graduation, I got hired in an IT company. However, I find my job function way too different from my profession as an engineer and I feel that I cannot apply any of the skills/ knowledge I have gained from my master's degree.

And so I resigned from my third job that lasted for only three months. Though I stayed for a relatively short period, I managed to contribute to the company by spearheading two multi-million projects.

After four months, I again joined the academe as a part-time instructor while looking for a full-time job. My concern at this point is that, I'm having second thoughts whether I should include my third job in my resume. On one hand, I think it is advantageous to allow employers to know of my project management skills and what I have contributed to my recent employer. On the other hand, I fear that they may see my short stay as a point against me, that I'm too choosy or other negative impressions that may degrade my chances of getting hired.

In this regard, I would like to ask for your advice on whether I should include my third employment record in my resumé or not. What are the risks and benefits? I hope you can enlighten me on this matter. Thank you very much and more power!

Concerned Engineer

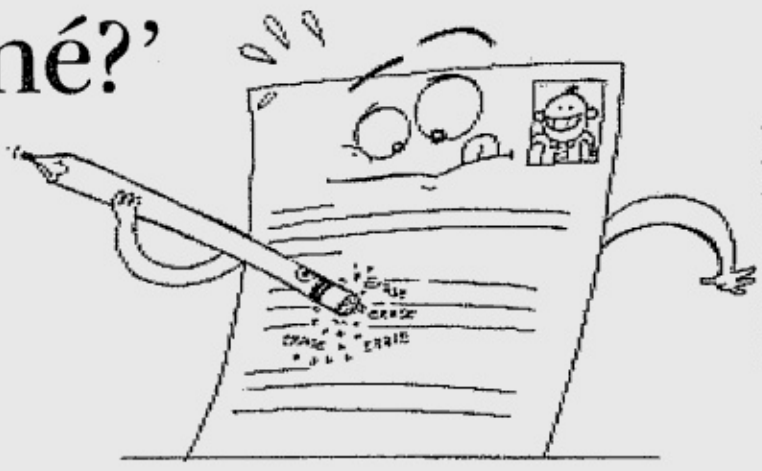


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Thank you for your letter. With the advent of globalization and technology, more people are starting to accept that lifetime employment is a dream, a thing of the past. People are becoming more mobile and in their working life, they may hold three or more jobs as they build their career across companies rather than within one single company. They work in the direction of acquiring skills and knowledge, leveraging them in jobs that bring them personal satisfaction and fulfillment.

So on your question on whether or not you should include in your resume your third job, where you stayed only three months, my answer is yes, especially if you cite your contribution to the two multi-million projects your mentioned. You may include a portion "reason for leaving" after the achievements or accomplishments per job so as to ensure that your future employer is not left with the negative impression that you fear.

While it is true that as a general rule, employers would prefer people who stay longer to justify the costs involved in hiring and training, companies are always on the look out for people with special skills.

Now, on the challenge of writing a resume, I believe you should customize your resume for a specific company rather than send one that is generic. Customizing will allow you to fit your knowledge, abilities and skills so they target, like a laser, the position you want to qualify for. In your case, your learning and training ability and project management skills are definitely strengths you can build on. Wishing you only the best in your search for the next and best job.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ ancillaedc. com.ph *or fax to 892-2902)*

King of the workplace

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

QUITE a number of readers have responded positively to our column, saying that they had never before linked religion to their jobs. "It makes sense; *puwede pala, ano*?" is a common reaction. Not only "*puwede*"—I would say—"*dapat*" also!

One of the biggest mistakes we avowed Christians can commit is to profess allegiance to Christ in church on Sundays and then shut Him up there for the rest of the week as we go about making a living. It's a pity that many Christians see religion as "impractical" at the workplace, and view Christ as a miracle worker to tap only in times of trouble. The truth is: nothing can be more practical than Christ's teachings, especially at the workplace where love of work or coworker seems in short supply. You only need to enthrone Christ as your King, in your heart, not only on your lips: say it, mean it, do it—listen to your King's voice, follow His rules and heed His counsel—and you'll find job satisfaction over and above that afforded you by the "best management" in the world.

At work, as in life, we move according to our beliefs. We deal with clients and coworkers while guided by these beliefs, and if we claim to be believers of Christ, and think and act according to our beliefs as Christians, how can we go wrong? Work cannot but be rewarding when we follow the highest work ethics ever taught—by the greatest teacher who ever lived. It is when we hail Christ as King but in practice enslave ourselves to other "kings"—ambition, greed, selfishness just to name a few—that problems pester us, robbing us of peace and happiness. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

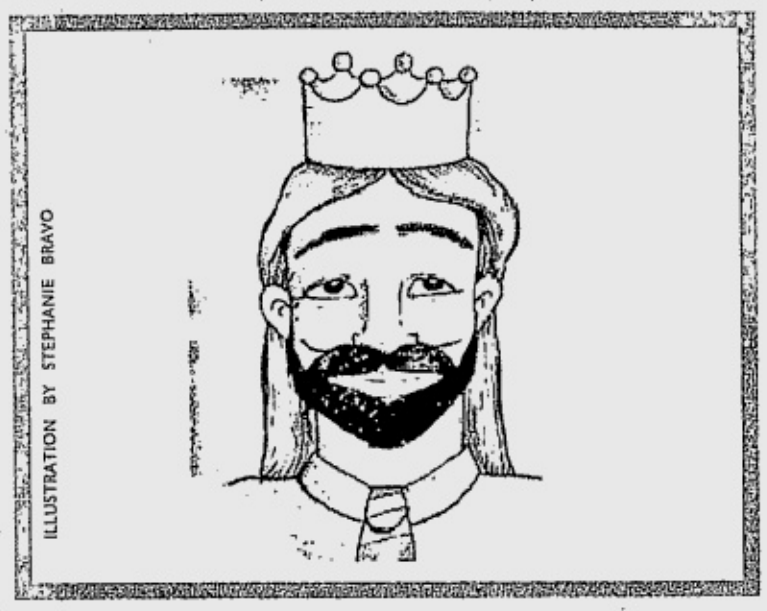


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Gospel: John 18: 33-3

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Christ the Boss

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I HEARD a story of two job applicants who came for the final interview by no less than the company boss himself. The first was asked, "How much is one plus one?" "Two," was the quick answer. The second was asked the same question: He paused a little while, and then answered, "Whatever you want, boss!" He saw the boss smile and said, "You are hired; you will do a good accounting job for me."

I like to focus on the first applicant even if he did not get the job in spite of "what he knows"—his stock of knowledge, which made him give a correct answer. For me, he represents workers who are truthful and faithful to their jobs. These workers apply assiduously and diligently to their jobs the knowledge and skills they have acquired. They accomplish their work almost perfectly. When they report to their boss on their performance, they do so truthfully without "stealing" credits due to the others. They express themselves honestly about their job or the situation in the workplace even if the truth might hurt the feelings of the boss or other significant persons in the company.

They do not spread malicious rumors about their coworkers but speak well of them. They are quick to affirm the others who perform well. They are ready and willing to sacrifice themselves for the good of the majority in the company. They are also willing to fight and suffer for what is true and right for everyone in the workplace. Do you belong to this kind of workers? When you listen to the voice of Christ, and make Him your King—Boss—you will be ready to say to Him, "Whatever you want, Boss!" *(Email the author at* mfv@skyinet.net*)*

INQUIRER
CLASSIFIEDS

A special wedding supplement

KASALANG FILIPINO 2

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Celebrate the joys and traditions of the Filipino wedding with Kasalang Filipino, the first-ever national bridal fair road show across ten key cities in the country. Co-presented by the Philippine Daily Inquirer Lifestyle Weddings and Engagements, Sunday Inquirer Magazine and Kasal.com, Kasalang Filipino features the best of Philippine wedding essentials and services and highlights Filipino wedding customs and traditions.

Kasalan sa Iloilo

BY GLADYS TOLETE

Kasalang Filipino successfully opened in Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City last May 31. The first bridal fair in the city, Kasalan sa Iloilo featured the premier wedding suppliers of the Visayas, most especially Iloilo, and Metro Manila.

Immediately following the opening of the fair was a sneak fashion show featuring the collections of noted Ilonggo designers. The Hotel's Belle Terrace served as the exhibit venue of Iloilo's known personalities' bridal gowns. Fanny Serrano treated the fair-goers to a special demonstration on bridal make-up using his own make-up line. The Grand Ballroom was also the venue of a special taping of *Ilongga Ka Day!*, a local lifestyle show.

Kasalan sa Iloilo is culminated with a Special Dinner and Fashion Show. Designers Bo Constantino, Eric de los Santos, Claire Jarantilla and Mel Varca showed their interpretation of the American, Spanish, French, Japanese and Filipiniana wedding with the special participation of Fanny Serrano.

Local Media Partners
Daily Informer
Panay News
Sun.Star Iloilo
The Guardian
The News Today

Iloilo Exhibitors:
ABC Printing Center
Blackbox Albert Fajardo Studio
Bo Constantino
Butz Canson of Flower Power
Claire Jarantilla
Copylandia Iloilo
Don Protacio
Eric De Los Santos
Flowers by ISRAEL
Freya, Inc.
Ilonggo Handmade Products
Image Up, Inc.
J&R Family Studio
Joemarie Bernas Photography & Video
Jose "Nonoy" Mosquera
Korby's
Lynnie Denila Floral Designs
Mel Varca
Mr. Labada Co.
Neneng Rubido
Paloma Photography, Inc.
Panaderia De Iloilo
Party in a Box
Pipoy Tancinco of Stretch Center
Scent From The Heart
Sol Fernandez
Sweet Treats
The Handmade Gallery (Souvenir)
Winner's Gym
Zenith Creations Computer Services

Bacolod Exhibitors:
Tronco Photo-Video
Wedding Details
Wedding Planner

Metro Manila Exhibitors:
Ariel Javelosa Photography
Banquet Specialty Shoppe, Inc.
Basket Case
Fanny Serrano Salon & Boutique
Glisaz Audio Video Corp.
JJS Entertainment (The Wedding Symphony)
Joel Bautista Couture
Jun Valbuena Digital Studio
Merlene Design Wear
QP Designs Wedding & Debut Invitations
Trajes By Emy Garcia-Reyes
Trends Wedding Shoppe by Susie Bonaobra
Wedding Shop
Weddings Plus by Marianne Lazaro

For their complete contact information, go to **http://www.kasal.com**

Fanny Serrano's bridal creation served as the finale during the Dinner Fashion Show of Kasalan sa Iloilo.

Kasalan sa Davao

SM City Davao played host to the fourth leg of the road show last September 5-7. Organized by Blue Files Advertising and RSVP Events, the event showcased the best of Davao suppliers with the following companies as sponsors: Details, Magnolia Cheezee, Garden Oasis, Midtown Printing, Sul Orchids, The Marco Polo Davao and Waterfront Insular Hotel.

Details came up with a Christmas-inspired setup while The Pearl Farm Beach Resort almost brought the beauty of the resort to life with their exquisite exhibit.

The first day's fashion show paid tribute to the Men in Weddings, second day to Women and a special show For the Brides on the last night.

Local Sponsors:
Details
Garden Oases Resort & Restaurant
Magnolia, Inc. (Cheezee)
Midtown Ad & Promo
Sul Orchids Flower Shop
The Marco Polo Davao
The Mindanao Daily Mirror
Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao

Davao Exhibitors:
Annie Pie Bakeshop
Astrochairs Party Shop

KASALAN SA DAVAO/ p. 3

Kasalan sa Cebu

By Gavin Sanson Bagares
Cebu Daily News

Kasalang Filipino, the national bridal fair road show, had a successful run in Cebu on the second leg of its tour last August 1 to 3. Venue of the show was Ayala Center Cebu.

The three day event at Ayala saw the unfolding of two major fashion shows by Cebu's more visible/involved designers like Jed Sevilla, Albert Arriba, Protacio, Harley Ruedas, Jude Elardo, among others. A mock wedding was also performed to set mood and tone on the first day.

Sidelight of shows was the reportedly controversial parade of five wedding gowns by couturier Jed Sevilla; as opposed to one gown each by the other designers. Allegedly, only one gown was permitted per designer. Sevilla; however, was swamped by floral bouquets by friends and clients at the curtain call.

Of course, the shows were just icing to the real thing: Commerce. A heady number of stalls were set up at Ayala's Activity Center to entice those planning their own (or other people's weddings) with a plethora of goods and services that promise to make the preparations simpler, besides making the event elegant and memorable.

Local Sponsors:
Marriott Hotel
CEO

Cebu Exhibitors:
Albert Arriba
Annie's Beauty World
Ballooney Shoppe
Carlito So Photography
Cascades
CEO
Cergen Art Studio
Chedz Bakeshop
Chester Enterprises
Civil Registry
Designer Bloom
Fashion Avenue
Flower Land

Sea-inspired wedding table setup by Shangri-La Mactan

Fluer de liz
Go Large
Harly Ruedas
Honda Motors
Jed Sevilla
Jojo Matibag
Joy Bernaldez
Koncepts & More
Laguna Garden Café
Leonardo Yglorla
M. Lhuillier Jeweler
Marichu Tan
Mario Colmenares
Marissa Unchuan
Marriott Hotel
Metro Ayala
Montebello Villa Hotel
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Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort
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WESMA Jewelry & Watches
Xsalon

Metro Manila Exhibitors:
Ariel Javelosa Photography
Citibank
Imagine Nation Photography
QP Designs
Voyeur Visage Studio, Inc.

For their complete contact information, go to **http://www.kasal.com**

Kasalan sa Kagay-an
(Cagayan de Oro)

The third leg of the road show happened in Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City last August 16-17. Organized by Professional Organizers, Unlimited, Kasalan'sa Kagay-an showed the best wedding suppliers of the City and even had guest exhibitors from Bohol, Cebu, and Manila. Mr. Emil Buencamino, 2002 President of WPPP, treated the fairgoers to a lecture and demo on wedding photography. Ms. Kim Leuenberger of Sul Orchids, on the other hand, taught guests tips and trends on floral arrangement.

The event closed with a stag and shower party on the first night and a special concert fashion show on the last night.

Local Sponsors
Graphics-all-in Store
Parasat Cable TV
St. Therese Flower Shop
Sul Orchids
SUNSTAR Cagayan de Oro
The Mailbox Business Center
The Site
Cameron's
Capriccio Jewellery
Celebrations
Celestial Fashion
GAITS General Merchandise by Gifts Station
Graphics-all-in Store
Green Bio/ Home Video Production
Hamilton Merchandising or Wow!Fire Works
Image Shooter Photography
Jazmin Fashion & Bridal Collection
JCA Realty
M.E Bridal Shoppe

Cagayan de Oro Exhibitors:
Adtronix Multimedia
Alona Beach Community Foundation, Inc.
Antipolo Furnishings
Cagayan River View Inn

Benjie Manuel.
PHOTO BY EMIL BUENCAMINO

Maggie's Corner
Mari-Video
Mary June Fashion
Max Fried Chicken
Mindanao Silk (MCFEDCO)
Ororama Bridal Registry
Paper Works
Parasat Cable TV
Pots and Pans Homebake and Coffeeshoppe
Professional Organizers Unlimited Inc.
Pryce Plaza
SBC Party Venue Inc.
Spring Blossom Novelty Center
St. Therese Flower Shop
Suarez Wedding Rings
Sul Orchids
The Mailbox Business Center
The Site
TINABUAN (Misamis Oriental Souvenirs & Sinamay Crafts)
Wolfram Virtual Works
Young at Heart Balloons

Metro Manila Exhibitors:
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Citibank
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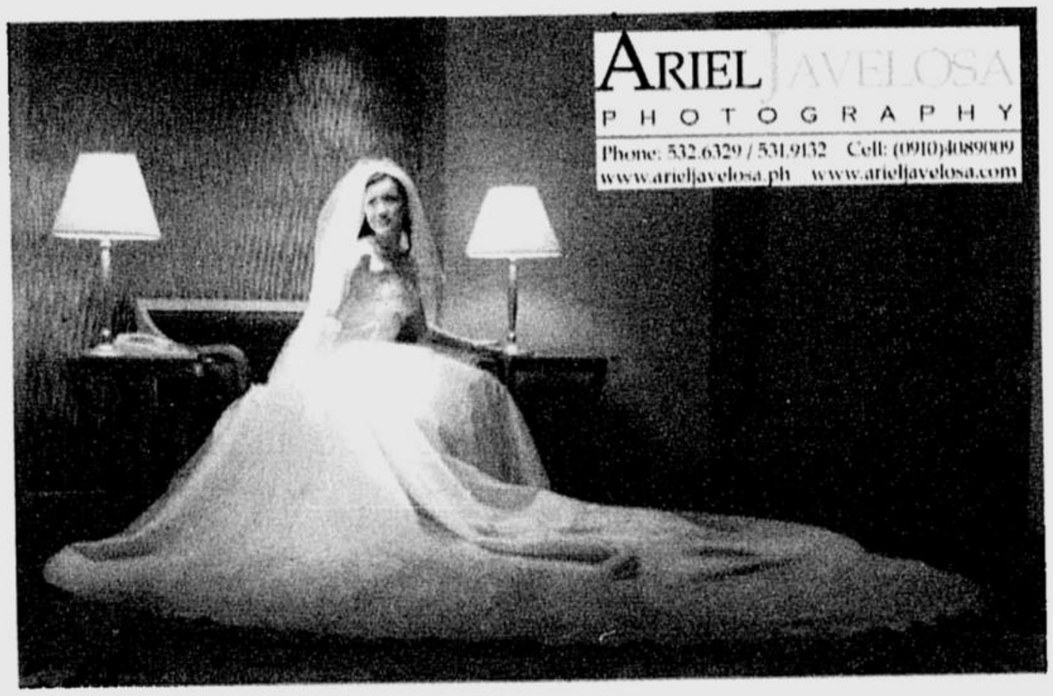

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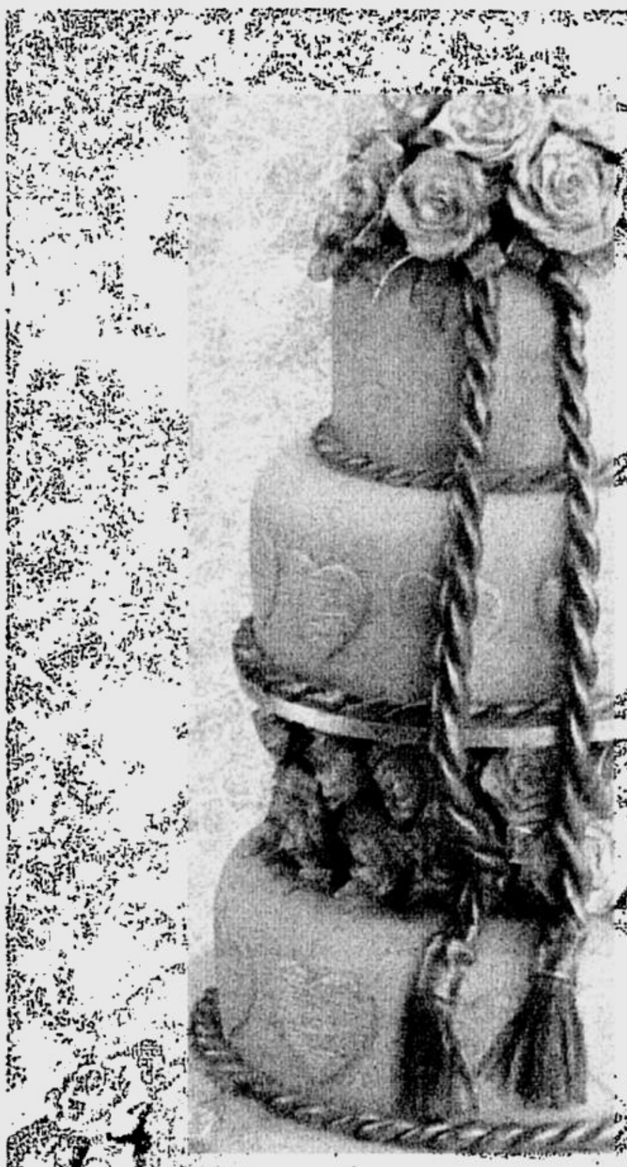

Kasalan sa Davao

(From page 2)

Blooming Bride
Bluefiles Advertising
Bridal Zone
Crown Asia
Dara Marie Flower Haven
Details
Donn Gonzales (Master of Ceremony)
Eden Nature Park
Edit Station
Entourage
Fashionata Couture
Garden Oases Resort & Restaurant
Garimon Roferos Haute Couture
Grand Regal Hotel Davao
Great Gifts & Souvenirs
Helens
Iven Floral Supply
Joy Bernaldez Exclusives
Knots Forever
Magnolia, Inc.
Merco Quality Cakes
Midtown Ad & Promo
Moissanite Jewelry
Monteritz
Monteritz
Multicar Transport Services
Natalie's Cake & Pastries
New Jersey Photo & Video
Nina's Candles
Nonoy P.Alonzo Grand Salon
Pictureshop co.
Ross Sevilla Design Studio
RSVP d' Events Specialist
Salon Nicole
Showimage Incorporated
Sul Orchids Flower Shop
The Marco Polo Davao
Tita Aida's Fine Collection
Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao
Wedding Channel

Metro Manila Exhibitors:

Ariel Javelosa Photography
Imagine Nation Photography
Louie Allan Photography
QP Designs

For their complete contact information, go to **http://www.kasal.com**

For the Brides.

Kasalan sa Batangas at Tagaytay

All roads led to Days Hotel for Kasalan sa Batangas and Tagaytay, September 20-21 and 27-28, respectively.

Showcasing the best suppliers of Batangas, Cavite, and nearby areas, Batangas leg capped the night with a one-man fashion show by leading local designer Dennis Macarandang. Tagaytay guests on the other hand witnessed the creations of Macarandang side by side with the works of Paul Mateos.

Batangas Exhibitors:
Belize Fondant
Ching's Creation
DM Fashion by Dennis Macarandang
Ed Alejandro
Edwin Tuyay (ePhoto Gallery)
Floridella
Ilaw Ni Hannah (Candle Products)
Jojo Driz
Juan Carlo - The Caterer
Mama's Own Cakes and Pastries
Niema's Persian Carpet and Home Décor
Numer Exconde
Planet Imagez
Q's Flowershop
Salon Julieth & SPA Clinic
Vic Manansala SPPP

Metro Manila Exhibitors:
A1Media Video and Photo
Imagine Nation
Photography
Lili Jewelry
QP Designs

Tagaytay Exhibitors:
Belize Fondant
Ching's Creation
DM Fashion by Dennis Macarandang
E Photography
E-Vents.. any given Sunday
Floridella
Ilaw Ni Hannah (Candle Products)
Kamu Kamu
Mark's House of Gowns
Niema's Persian Carpet and Home Décor
Paul's Haute Couture
Pol's Photography
Q's Flowershop
RCJC Flowershop
Salon Julieth & SPA Clinic

PHOTO BY LOUIE REFORMADO

Metro Manila Exhibitors
A1Media Video and Photo
Imagine Nation

KASALAN SA BATANGAS AT TAGAYTAY/ p.6

Kasalan sa San Pablo (Laguna)

San Pablo City Government's One Stop Shop played host to the 8th leg of the road show. Held last November 15-16, the event was formally opened by Honorable City Mayor Florante Boy Aquino and First Lady Leila Aquino, together with notable fashion designer Renee Salud and ABS-CBN reporter Sol Aragones.

Organized by SPCNHS-MPC, headed by Mrs. Loida Dantic, and known event organizer Mr. Egay Victorio, the City Government's One Stop Processing Center became a one stop shop of wedding-related needs during the 2-day event. The event was highlighted with a bridal fashion show on the 2nd night by the City's leading designers.

San Pablo Exhibitors:
Alex Alcos Fashion House
Andy Villanueva
Archie Fandiño
Asiano Computer Shop
Blooms Flower Shoppe
Casza Flora Philippines
Chiva Siason Couture
Creative Moda de Primera
D' Eventgrante
Digital Echo Mobile
Eddie R. Escondo
Egay B. Victorio
Gem See's Cakeshop
JW & Escaba Food Products
Lola's Fashion House
Marneth's Touch Catering Services
Miles Dinglasan
Nholie Pilapi
Oliver's Wedding Haus
Pusturyosa
Raul Eje
Rikko Escaro
San Pablo Galleria
Seseng Oblena
Siesta Residencia de Arago

Metro Manila Exhibitors:
A1Media Video and Photo
Ariel Javelosa Photography
E Photography
Louie Allan Photography
QP Designs

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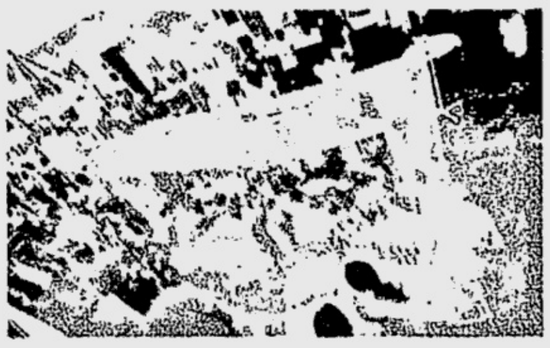
Kasalan sa Dagupan

The 7th leg of the road show unveiled in Dagupan City's premier hotel, Star Plaza Hotel. The first ever wedding fair in the city, the Hotel's Grand Ballroom was transformed to an elegant exhibit of wedding - related needs by the City's best suppliers last October 11 and 12.

The fair was formally opened by no less than the City Mayor, Benjamin S. Lim, CESO V Provincial DTI Director Jaime P. Lucas and Mr. Tony Sales of Department of Tourism – Region I. The 2-day event was packed with demonstrations and talks, including make up demo by Excelsior Salon and art demo by Ms. Alice Martha Lee.

A musical performance by Agape Strings capped the first night while the second night witnessed the newest bridal creations of the city's notable fashion designers: Brides & Blooms, Cover Fashion Studio, Freny's Gown.



Star Plaza's exquisite flower arrangements by in-house florist, Rey Petras.
PHOTOS BY FRANCIS' PORTRAITS.

Local Sponsors
Asia Brewery
Aster
Jam Sweet Jam
Northern Times
Star Printers
Sunday Punch
Sunstar
USATV

Dagupan Exhibitors:
Art Video Photography
Avon Cosmetics Inc.
Brides & Blooms
Covers Fashion Studio
CSI Hardware Plus
Deli Magic Foods Corp.
Excelsior SPA
Francis' Portraits
Freny's Gown
IT'S ME GOWN
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Shyne's Studio
Smart Telecommunications
TEAMWRX
The Mouse House Internet Café
Varsha PC Planet
Watercolor Paintings
Zari-Zari Studio

Laguna Exhibitors
Golden Realm Commercial

Baguio Exhibitors
Gil Oribello Wedding Photography

Metro Manila Exhibitors:
Agape String Ensemble
Ariel Javelosa Photography
Passion Photography

For their complete contact information, go to **http://www.kasal.com**

Flower arrangement by Mom's Flower Shop.
PHOTO BY ARIS GO OF PHOTO OUTPOST.

Kasalan sa Baguio

Never failing to be a popular wedding and honeymoon getaway, Baguio has once again showcased some of its best wedding suppliers last November 19. With guest wedding suppliers from nearby areas, Porta Vaga Mall has provided the locals as well as the visiting Ad Congress crowd, more than the usual array of supplier products.

Organized by Vertex Innovations, Inc., the event will be capped tonight with a very special fashion show by guest designer, Luchi Landicho – Vicente.

KASALAN SA BAGUIO/ p. 6

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PHOTO BY GIL ORIBELLO

Kasalan sa Baguio

(From page 4)

Baguio Exhibitors:
Agape String Ensemble
Babe's Studio
Baguio Reinforcement Crew
Covers Fashion Studio
Creades Arts n' Crafts
Gil Oribello Wedding Photography
Goldilocks Session Baked Treats Corp.
Home Style Fine Furniture
Kutz n' Gel
Microtel Inn and Suites
Mom's Flower Shop
Photo Outpost
Vertex Innovations, Inc.

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Kasalan sa Intramuros (Manila)

Kasalang Filipino culminates in San Diego Gardens, Intramuros. Formally opened yesterday morning, the event is deemed to not only promote the Walled City as a 'Wedding City', but also to serve as a fund-raising project for the Rotary Intramuros Foundation.

Below is the event's complete program of activities:

November 22, Saturday

10:00am-11:00am	Formal Opening, Ribbon Cutting
Guests of Honor:	Mrs. Marixi Prieto *Philippine Daily Inquirer* Mr. Dominador Ferrer Intramuros Administration Capt. Emmanuel Regio Rotary Club of Intramuros Mr. Jimmy Lim Rotary Club of Intramuros Mr. Robert Lane Rotary Intramuros Foundation
	Unveiling of the Kasalang Filipino Nationwide Photo Contest Entries
12:00pm-1:00pm	Music
12:00pm-onwards	Free Calesa Tour
1:00pm-1:30pm	Minor Raffle Draw
1:30pm-3:00pm	Make Over with VMV
3:00pm-4:30pm	Goldilock's Savor The Taste Game (register to the game)
4:30pm-6:00pm	An Afternoon of Beauty after 5 with Lux
6:00pm-6:30pm	Minor Raffle Draw
6:30pm-7:00pm	Music
7:00pm-8:00pm	Okasyon (A Sari-Sari Fashion Show)

November 23, Sunday

10:00am	Opening of Exhibit Music
10:00am-12:00pm	Nivea Body Language Game (register to the game)
12:00pm-1:00pm	Music
12:00pm-onwards	Free Calesa Tour
1:00pm-1:30pm	Minor Raffle Draw
1:30pm-3:00pm	To the Next Step with Philam Life (register to the game)
3:00pm-4:30pm	Dove Discovery Game (register to the game)
4:30pm-6:30pm	Awarding of Photo Contest Winners Exhibit Award Winners Major Raffle Draw Music
7:00pm-8:00pm	Kasalang Filipino Fashion Show

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Kasalan sa Batangas at Tagaytay

(From page 3)

Photography
QP Designs

For their complete contact information, go to **http://www.kasal.com**

Creations of Dennis Macarandang.
PHOTO BY ELLEN TUYAY.

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The Leather Collection - Exquisite handcrafted leather goods await lucky guests!

MosCom – the event's Official Internet Service Provider.

VMV Hypoallergenics – Learn the The Art and Science of Perfect Skin with VMV Hypoallergenics and get a chance to bring home samples of their skin and beauty products.

Lux Super Rich Shampoo – Bridal fair guests will surely enjoy shiny, revitalized, jet-black hair with an Afternoon of Beauty after 5 with Lux program!

Nivea Body – Great skin starts with great skin care from the Nivea Body line.

Hypertech Corporation – the Hardware Provider of Kasalang Filipino 2003.

Media coverage by:

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URL/Website: http://www.unilever.com.ph

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Tel. No.: (632) 889-6137
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Manila Seedling Bank Cmpd.
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URL/Website: http://www.cenitlighting.com

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or 527-0496; Fax No.: (632) 527-2112
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URL/Website: http://www.dv-post.com

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URL/Website: http://www.ilustradorestaurant.com

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941-7032, 942-5738
Fax No.: (632) 948-2669
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E-mail: info@josiahcatering.com
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Old Swiss Inn Restaurant
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Ave., cor Sto. Tomas St., Makati City
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Robert Camba Catering Services
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E-mail: sales@swancatering.com.ph
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VS & F Classic Food International
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Fax No.: (632) 521-1285
Mobile No.: (0918) 910-5904
E-mail: corp_sales@bayview.com.ph
URL/Website: www.bayviewparkhotel.com

Hotel Intramuros de Manila
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Plaza San Luis Complex, Cabildo cor.
Urdaneta Sts., Intramuros, Manila
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Lotus Garden Hotel
1227 A. Mabini cor. P. Faura Sts.,
Ermita, Manila
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E-mail: lotusgardenhtl@pacific.net.ph

The Pearl Manila
Gen. Luna St. cor. Taft & U.N Avenue,
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Fax No.: (632) 400-0077
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The Leather Collection
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Tel. No.: (632) 842-2261
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URL/Website: http://www.leathercollection.ph

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myWedding.ph (Creative Synergy)
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Tel. No.: (632) 897-5011 to 14
Fax No.: (632) 890-3590
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Kasal.com (Web Philippines, Inc.)
Ms. Mathel B. Ong
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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

November 23, 2003

Kaye Torres Her Mother's Daughter

Captured at a mile and a half

After the apparent bungling of the extradition case against Rod Strunk, prime suspect in the Nida Blanca murder, the late actress's daughter begins a crusade for justice. Kaye Torres remembers the lessons Mom taught her like "Be careful who you marry!"

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By Alya B. Honasan
Photograph by Joan Bondoc

KAYE TORRES is angry. Almost gone is the weeping, bereaved daughter with downcast eyes hidden behind dark glasses whom the Filipino public has become so familiar with since the murder of her mother, actress Nida Blanca, on November 7, 2001.

At the press conference at her mother's grave at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina last Monday, as supporters in "Justice for Nida" t-shirts cheered, Kaye wagged her finger at the cameras and addressed the prime suspect in the killing, her stepfather, Rod Strunk. "My mother loved you very much, Rod. The question is, did you love her back? Prove it!"

Although her eyes are different from her mother's, Kaye's jaw and mouth tighten in an uncannily familiar way, the way Nida Blanca's lips would thin when delivering an angry line in many of her countless movies. At that moment, Kaye was truly her mother's daughter.

At the same time, Kaye seems more relaxed, almost wry, and more comfortable with media, whom she knows may help invaluably in this newly launched crusade to pursue the justice that seems To page 2

Kaye ...from page 1

lost forever after US courts threw out the case for Strunk's extradition. Kaye's legal counsel, former Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Harriet Demetriou, has declared National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) director Reynaldo Wycoco "arrogant and incompetent," and has accused the NBI and the Department of Justice of several blunders, from submitting incomplete, "edited" evidence and failing to send a representative to the extradition hearing last October 17, to trying to absolve themselves of blame by crying discrimination.

Unica hija: Baby Kaye with her mom; posing for the camera at about age 5

"Hello, I'm mad!" Kaye says emphatically, with a bitter half-smile. "It really hit me, and I think what triggered it was the result of the extradition. I was in Baguio when my guardian (Elena de la Paz, Nida Blanca's right-hand woman for 47 years before her death) called me and broke the news from Atty. Demetriou."

Her first reaction? "I *cried*. I was really devastated. My initial reaction was sorrow, hurt. Then I remembered that, on second thought, after I got off the plane last November 6, I already told reporters that I wasn't that confident with the way the hearing went." She tried to be fair with her comments on how the investigation has been handled, Kaye claims. "But whatever comes out of my mouth now is simply a result of their performance. I'm only human. I'm capable of mixed emotions."

In the last two years, it's been her life in Torrance, near Los Angeles, California, that has gradually returned to some semblance of normalcy. "When I'm in America, I get to have a taste of that from time to time." Right now, though, Manila is more of her home; Kaye just has to make sure she spends enough time in the US to maintain her immigrant status. "It used to be six months here, six months there. It was crazy." The 43-year-old Kaye has, in fact, quit her job as an accountant with a manufacturing firm to concentrate on the case. "I figured, being an only child, and as my mother's only successor, it was time to make a choice."

Choices were what Nida Blanca, Dorothy Jones in real life, made sure her daughter always had. Katherine Jones Torres was born when her mother was at the height of her stardom; her father, Victor Torres, was an architect, but the marriage ended when Kaye was only two years old. Ironically, it was only a legal separation; in the eyes of the Church, her parents remain married—"something Rod Strunk never realized," Kaye notes.

After that, it was "single mom time," Kaye says, "but I think she did a good job. It was not easy growing up the daughter of a celebrity, but I always managed to take the back seat, away from the camera. It was my choice; I was very shy when I was young. I would never have been able to do what I'm doing now." Kaye went to Poveda Learning Center, then to Miriam and the Philippine School of Business Administration for her accounting course.

She worked at Union Bank's Pasay Road branch as an assistant loan officer, where people would always get "a glow in their eyes" when they discovered her showbiz connection. Before that, though, Kaye had already dabbled in showbiz, appearing in shows like *"Iskul Bukol"* and "Eat Bulaga" and guesting in "John en Marsha," although the fine-featured mestiza never considered making a serious career of it. In 1991, when her mother presented the option, Kaye moved to the United States.

PDI PHOTO

Sorrow and suspicion: Rod Strunk and Kaye side by side at Nida's funeral on Novermber 14, 2001

Victor Torres passed away four years ago, although Kaye had visited him occasionally before that whenever she was here on vacation. "I did have to rebuild the relationship, as well as rebuilding myself after the loss of a paternal figure. I wouldn't say we were close, as we would see each other only about once a year. But no animosity *naman*." Did he provide for her? "I don't want to lie. Everything I have now came from my mom. She took all the responsibility."

In fact, even now, Kaye says she is exploring business opportunities both here and in the United States to help support herself and to finance what seems bound to be a long legal fight.

She and her mother were like "buddies, more like best friends," Kaye recalls. When Mom was out shooting, Kaye's guardian de la Paz took over with the homework assistance, and the girl spent afternoons with cousins. "My mom never spoiled me, something I'm appreciating now. She raised me to develop my own strengths."

Even when Kaye was all grown up, she and her mother would often snuggle to watch videos together. "In the U.S., she could have more of a normal life, too, and we would go out all the time."

The late actress was also an open book when it came to the men in her life. "As opposed to some mothers who would seek their daughter's approval all the time, my mom was more independent. I understood and respected that, as long as the guy would treat us well."

Kaye remembers her mother, however, as a veritable martyr for romance. "She always loved so much. In her relationships, she was consistent; she always gave more than she took. At the height of her fame in the '50s and '60s, she told me she would still bring my dad's pants to the set so she could iron them during breaks in shooting. Her *pagka*-housewife never disappeared."

In retrospect, the then-teenage Kaye was not happy when Nida and Rod Strunk were married, 22 years before the murder. Rod had first become Nida's boyfriend in 1964, when he was dabbling in showbiz. He had come to the Philippines, Kaye recalls, to do a movie with the late John Derek, and met Nida when he guested on "The Nida-Nestor Show." Several years later, the two rekindled their affair. "After the last relationship of my mom went bad, enter Rod. We were apprehensive, and I expressed that to my mom, but who was I to judge at that time?" The marriage happened very quickly under "not-so-ideal circumstances," Kaye recalls. "They went to the States, and that's where they decided to get married. My mom didn't tell me about that when she left, so I guess it wasn't on her agenda. I just got a phone call. *Parang* teenagers!"

In the succeeding years, Kaye believes she evolved into the villain in Rod's life. "I felt it was my duty and responsibility to look after the welfare of my mom when I saw something out of whack. And my mom listened to me. That's why, when I was mature enough to speak out on how I felt, Rod would resent it."

What was the last thing he ever said to Kaye after Nida's death? "Funny you should ask that," Kaye muses, her mouth hardening, "because I didn't see any concern from him that my mother was murdered. Instead, he asked me, 'Please don't take away my comfort and luxury here in the house, don't rob me of this nice life.' He even wrote me a letter. That's when I realized, he's still thinking of himself!"

There's another, more mystical reason why Kaye was not surprised when Rod became the prime suspect. "I've talked about this before, and I don't know if people will believe me. The night after I learned of my mother's death, she visited me. It was not a dream, and I know this is true. She embraced me and apologized to me. She was in tears; she said, 'I'm so sorry, Kaye. *Sakim kasi siya*. He is so selfish *kasi*.' No names were mentioned, but she gave me the clue. So when I arrived here, my mindset was different."

The year 2001 was particularly trying for Kaye, because she was also supposed to get married. The breakup happened some months before her mother's death. She had met the man in Manila on one of her trips home, and the constant e-mail and correspondence and his trips to LA helped the relationship bloom. "We were up to the challenge, and we thought we could make it work, contrary to the belief that long-distance relationships don't. But in spite of all the promises, the plans, it didn't work out. And now I know why."

Kaye believes she was kept free to concentrate on seeking justice. But wouldn't it have helped if she had someone to lean on during these trying times? "I don't know... I couldn't say if he would have been that kind of partner, as supportive as I would have needed him to be, so I believe there was a good reason why it didn't push through. It was beautiful, though, and I don't regret it."

Kaye is still dating now, although she believes "this is not the time" to think about a serious relationship. Her mother was never on her case about getting married, and kept her philosophical attitude about love. "She would tell me, 'If it works, fine; if not, find another one.' She always told me to use my head, although she would do the opposite! I do have a tendency to give more, but I tighten my reins because of what I've seen. Especially in the US, relationships are all compromise—*walang martir na babae doon!*" (The women there are not martyrs) she laughs.

Marriage is not out of the question, though, and Kaye would still love to experience motherhood. "I don't think it's too late."

When she's in America, Kaye goes biking with friends, visits Torrance's nearby beach, watches movies or goes shopping to unwind. But right now, she reiterates, "I'm in this for the long haul. I have nothing to lose. This is my life now."

She realizes that it's an uphill battle. "You know, when I was younger, I used to be a quitter, sheltered by our family. I guess when people mature, they really change. Life in the US really molded me; it trained me to speak up for what I know is right."

Her biggest lesson from this ordeal, meanwhile, has been a straightforward one. "Be careful who you marry!" Kaye exclaims, with only the slightest tinge of irony. "That's the bottom line. It's not over yet, though. I'm still learning a lot. Life is such a mystery; you're never really prepared for something until it's there. All I can say is, it's my mom who's guiding me through all this."

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MINDANAO REFLECTIONS Jimmy Vista will showcase 15 new watercolor works of Mindanao's rustic scenes and its bounty in his latest exhibit at the Genluna Gallery in Davao City until Nov. 29. Vista is a Kulay sa Tubig Hall of Famer and is noted for his "poetic interpretation" of life on canvas. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

WOOING THE "FAGGOTS"?

It was very heartening to read that a Filipino has made it in the Canadian Parliament ("A Filipino in Canada's Cabinet," **SIM**, 16 November 2003). Then the last three paragraphs of the article almost made me vomit. Why does Dr. Rey Pagtakhan support the issue on same-sex marriages or homosexual union? That's really intriguing of him. Is he gay?

As a doctor, he should know that the first incidence of AIDS in New York and California was observed among homosexuals. A lot of similar cases (not only in the US) followed, and since then homosexuality has been powerfully linked to AIDS.

Then he talks about "the right of people to do as they please as long as they don't harm others." Well-spoken words, but stereotyped. The politician in him would do anything to be elected—woo the faggots, for instance.

LORENZO A. FERNANDEZ, JR.
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CLARIFICATION IN PAGTAKHAN ARTICLE

Thank you so much for the timely publication of Dr. Pagtakhan's story. I would like to express my concern regarding the editing of my article. In the process of cutting it down, a paragraph was removed, thus, changing some facts. The sentence, "how strong a voice is Pagtakhan in pushing this cause forward may depend on how he will fare under the new leadership of the Liberal Party" refers to his crusade to have Canada recognize the educational and employment background that immigrants bring with them when coming over here. In the final article, it appears that his cause is for the woman who was about to be deported back to the Philippines. That issue has been resolved.

If there is any way that this can be clarified in your next issue, I would appreciate it. I hope I am not imposing on you, but I just want the facts to be accurate.

ANNIE GORRA RAGO
brag2000@shaw.ca

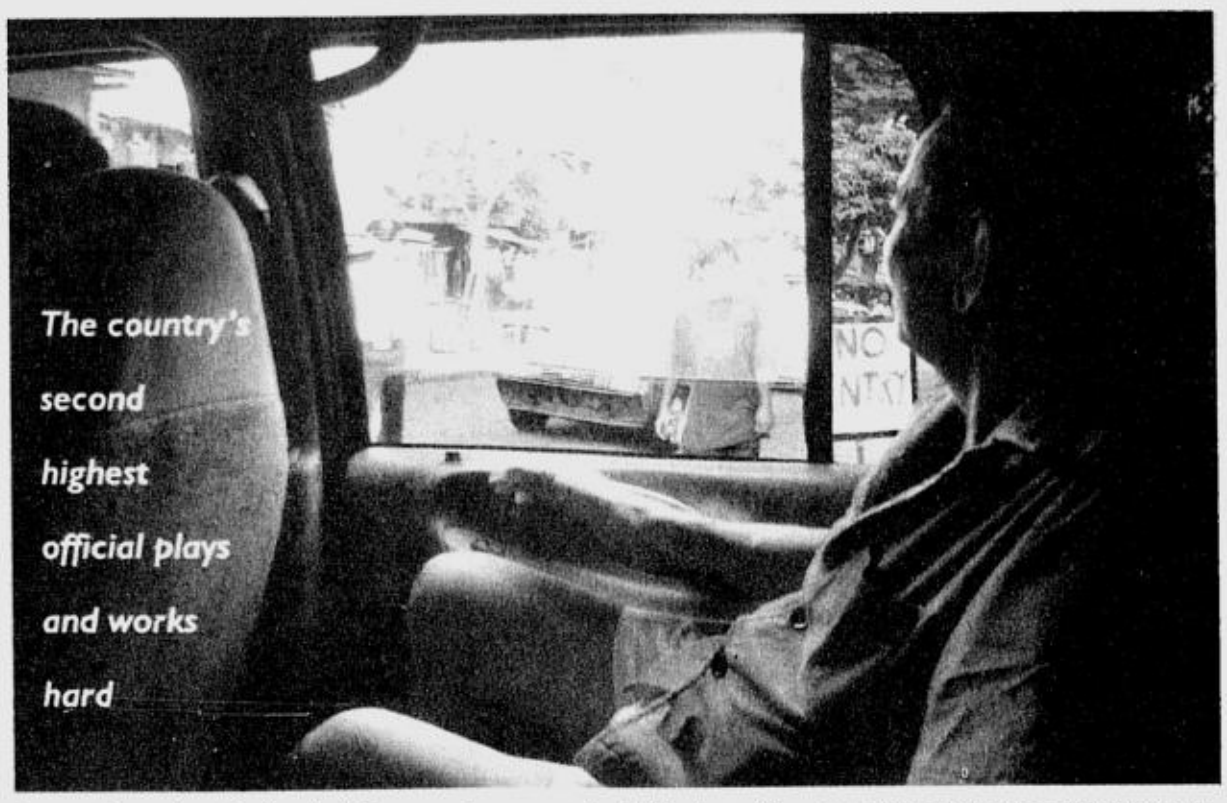
ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees — and to avoid an unnecessary trip! — please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

All Access

Text and photos by Boy Cabrido

Second in Command



7:05 a.m.: On his way to the Quezon City Sports Club for some tennis practice

TWO motorcycle escorts and two new Expedition vans signal the start of the day for Vice President Teofisto Guingona. Seven days a week, the vehicles head for the Quezon City Sports Club, where the soft-spoken VP indulges in tennis and chess, two sports that, he says, keep him young. Today, it's an hour's tennis match with Henry Peras, his tennis partner for more than 10 years now.

Back home, Guingona has a quick shower and breakfast and manages to squeeze in a chess match with son Rollie before we head for the airport. The VP has a speaking engagement in Davao. Thanks to his motorcycle escorts, the airport turns out to be a 30-minute drive away on traffic-heavy Edsa from his home in Quezon City.

At Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the airport staff and fellow passengers warmly greet the VP. The same scene is repeated in Davao where a party of welcomers and police escorts drive us to the Davao Archbishop's Palace. Here, we take a quick lunch that ends with Guingona and Archbishop Fernando Capalla giving each other a tight hug. On the road again, we head for the Apo View Hotel where the VP gives a brief 20-minute speech for the Mindanao Business Congress. It is a hard-hitting message, complete with Guingona's trademark clenched fist punctuating his words.

A 30-minute press conference with the Davao Press Corps follows, with the VP being grilled on his estranged relationship with President Arroyo, and on his intentions to run for the presidency in the May 2004 elections. As we motored back to the Davao airport, V-150 tanks complete the swarm of police security along our route, surely a sign that the terrorist threat remains very real in this Southern Mindanao city.

It is almost 8 in the evening when we arrive in Manila, where two motorcycle escorts again part traffic along Edsa, a far cry from GMA's security detail of 20 vehicle escorts and 10 Presidential Security Group motorcycles, including an ambulance.

En route to his New Manila home, the Vice-President offers to drop me off at my place, but I quickly decline, wondering how my neighbors would react upon seeing this top official and his escorts drive me home.

Home again, Guingona quickly changes into a more comfortable shirt and pajamas, although the day is hardly over. He meets with his staff for a briefing on the day's events and on his next day's schedule. It's been a long day, but as I say my goodbyes, I see a thin man who looks like he still has the energy to play an hour's worth of tennis.

7:15 a.m.: The VP takes to the nets

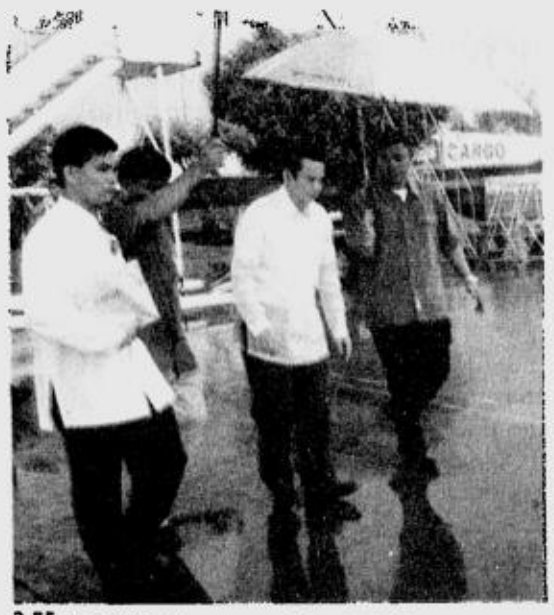
8:45 a.m.: He pulls on his signature Barong Tagalog for the day's planned activities

8:50 a.m.: Matching wits with son Rollie in a quick chess match

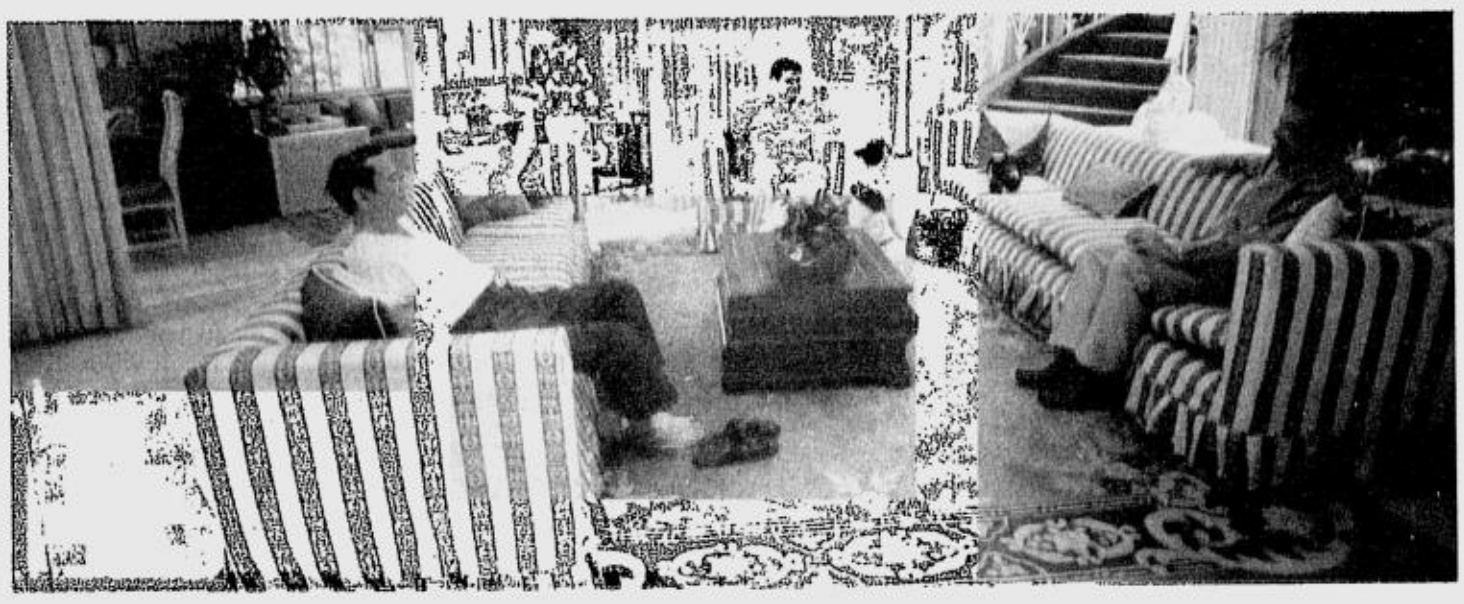
9:50 a.m.: The VP arrives at the NAIA Terminal 2 together with chief of staff Danny Venida (second from right)

12:45 p.m.: Arriving at the Davao's Archbishop's Palace, he is met by Archbishop Fernando R. Capalla (left) and another priest

3 p.m.: Being interviewed by the members of the Davao press corps



3:55 p.m.: Walking on a wet tarmac at the Davao International Airport



8:15 p.m.: The hectic day's work done, the VP relaxes at home with Rollie and Danny

For a Cause

By Joy Rojas

Salving Sickness with Song

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

FROM the time he opened his mouth and discovered that he could sing at the age of five, to the time he was giving solo performances, first as a member of the La Salle Greenhills Songsters and the Philippine Madrigal Singers, and then in recitals both here and abroad, Ramon "Montet" Acoymo harbored a painful insecurity. "People say they like it, but I've always thought of my voice as an ugly duckling," he admits. That his unusually deep, dark and loud voice became the subject of endless argument among colleagues in the field of classical music certainly didn't help. Half of them labeled him a baritone, the other half a tenor.

But for scholars in the U.S. and Europe, there was no debate. To them, the Filipino was a bona fide dramatic tenor, the rarest kind of tenor found mostly among German and Scandinavian singers. For a while, Acoymo (who had come across the term himself in his doctoral studies on vocal pedagogy) felt unworthy of the title bestowed upon him by foreigners. "It's like you told everyone you were a beauty queen, but you actually weren't," he compares wryly. All that changed when he finally received validation from a fellow Filipino. Told by the incoming musical director of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra that, yes indeed, he is a dramatic tenor, Acoymo proudly declared, "My ugly duckling voice is a swan *pala!*"

For the ailing children in Subic and Clark, Montet Acoymo's dramatic tenor voice is good medicine for body and soul

While much has been said about his voice, it's the words "medicine for the body and soul" that humble and honor him the most. For the past four years, Acoymo has unfailingly mounted an annual major show for the benefit of the Alliance for Bases Cleanup (ABC). Composed of families from the provinces of Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and Cavite, the NGO seeks to find support for the victims of toxic waste contamination—specifically children—in the areas of Subic and Clark, sites of the former U.S. military bases. "There's a very high incidence of leukemia, cerebral palsy, congenital heart disease and birth defects among the children in Subic and Clark, and ABC theorizes that it's because of the toxic waste from the bases that seeped through the communities' water supply," explains Acoymo. "I'm not accusing anyone. All I want to do is light a candle."

Actually, the dramatic tenor has done much more than that. Since hooking up with ABC, he has received "zero centavos" for his performances, and even had to dip into his pockets to shoulder production costs or a sick child's hospital expenses. "We're talking 24,000 to 27,000 households here," emphasizes Acoymo. "And every week or so, there are new reports about a child with cancer or a birth defect. But in spite of my efforts, how many families can I afford to help?"

Luckily, the singer's involvement has encouraged others to do what they can for the obscure and neglected cause. In "A Voice For The Children," his latest show this November 24, 7 pm, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Acoymo has definitely come a long way from his first performance for the ABC—singing before an audience of five in a bar with a 20-person seating capacity. "I've been singing at the CCP since 1978 and I just have to thank them! They believed in the project so much they decided to give me a date," he says, beaming.

As always, Acoymo will earn nothing for this performance—save perhaps for the bragging rights of being the first Filipino classical singer in the history of the CCP to essay a recital format. "Foreigners have done it but Filipinos haven't dared, as far as my research is concerned," says Acoymo, who will be accompanied on the piano by Philippine Madrigal Singers musical director Mark Anthony Carpio. "Pinoy audiences like spectacle; the recital format is not an ideal form of entertainment for Filipinos."

Ailing Clark and Subic kids who have attended his past shows, however, believe otherwise. "These kids are between the ages of 6 and 12, yet they take to the operatic style of singing very well," says the dramatic tenor whose repertoire appropriately features songs "composed for, inspired by, and dedicated to children and their parents." "In fact, they're entertained."

Such a response prompts Acoymo, who teaches voice and is chairman of the voice, theater, music and dance department of his alma mater, the University of the Philippines' College of Music, to take serious stock of the talent he's been blessed with. "Poets and writers need many words, but a voice can speak volumes through a single song," he reflects. "But beyond songs, research has proven how music is able to reinforce the body's system so that it can constructively fight disease or even prevent it."

With a voice comes responsibility, Acoymo adds. "And with that responsibility comes humility and, though contradictory, the power to move audiences. I have a feeling that I must keep using my voice for this purpose."

For ticket inquiries to "A Voice For The Children," please call the UP College of Music at 929-6963 (Yvette) and 925-4147 (Myrla or Leony).

In Memoriam

By Corazon A. Ong

Back to The Land

Journalist-turned-farmer Joe Burgos spent his last days bearing witness to the cycle of life

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant..."

Ecclesiastes

WHILE recuperating after his second heart attack in June this year, Joe Burgos taped this whole passage from the Bible, which he translated and delivered in flawless Filipino and aired in *"Mula sa Bukid,"* a weekly radio program over Radio Veritas which he co-anchored with wife, Edith. As a newspaperman turned farmer, he'd been a witness to the cycle of life and death in his farm almost on a daily basis. As one seed bursts into a new life, another plant is dying away.

"Joe has been spiritually prepared and ready a long time ago," Edith told me once.

I first saw Joe in person in 2001 when I interviewed him for a cover story in a government publication. After the interview, he took me around Land Farm, the 12-hectare farm in Barangay Tartaro, San Miguel, Bulacan, where in 1986 he decided to settle and try to become a farmer.

Every now and then, he'd stop walking to point out to me a plant, an insect or a flock of birds. How he loved the birds, which he could spot even from a distance. He could give you their common names, too, in both English and Filipino. When they were just starting to live in the farm, Joe imposed a policy in the house which initially drew a loud protest from the five Burgos children. The radio is banned from 5 to 7, both in the morning and in the afternoon, so nothing could compete with the singing of the birds.

PDI FILE/VICENTE CARREON

Joe on the farm with wife Edith and grandchildren

I interviewed him for the second time this year for a profile which I wrote for the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE ("Planting the Good Seed," May 25, 2003).

The day the article came out, I sent a text message to Edith. She texted back: "Thanks a lot. This will lift his spirits. I feel you should know, he was diagnosed to have cancer of the prostate, advanced state."

Shortly after, he had his second heart attack. Knowing of their mounting hospital and medical bills, I asked Edith's permission to write a news story on Joe where I could ask for help from the readers.

But Joe would have none of it. "Joe is embarrassed. It's OK, we'll just tap friends." But knowing Joe, that would have been an even more daunting task.

"Every day, we are besieged with little miracles," Edith said when I saw Joe at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center on November 15, a day after he suffered a massive brain hemorrhage and a day before he passed away. "Somebody offers us help when we least expect it."

Before Joe lost consciousness, he and the family were praying. At one point, Joe, who was then wearing a fully beaded cape of Our Lady of Peñafrancia over his hospital gown, nudged Edith to say, "Take this off. I feel like the Nazarene." They all laughed. Joe's sense of humor was intact.

Many years back, he told me that countless people had offered to buy his farm, for many times the sum he paid for it. "This is where I live, this is where I will die and perhaps, this is also where I will be buried."

Yesterday, at two in the afternoon, Joe got his wish. He was buried at Land Farm, to be one with the farm he loved so much.

Amazing Golf, Amazing Time

The magnificent fairways of Alta Vista golf club

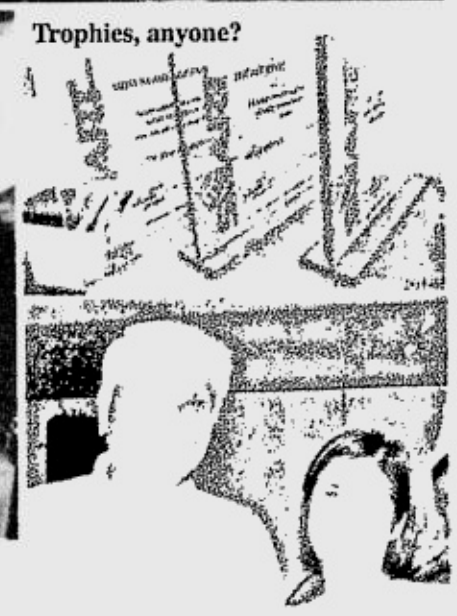
It was a day that began ominously as the weather threatened to spoil a good round of golf. But no way, the clouds parted and golfers teed off for the SMART President's Cup in Cebu. The day was saved and unforgettable shots and sporting camaraderie was shared by all. The tournament was held last November 14, 2003 at the ritzy Alta Vista Country Club in Cebu, a fitting course for this tourney which attracts some of the most influential men and women of Cebu and some SMART VIPs from Manila as well.

SMART's top brass executives shared the sprawling golf course with their finest and dearest clients from Cebu. The lightly soaked course proved a stern test for all golfers as the picturesque greens hid the true dangers of a challenging course. Those that came out on top of their class were worthy winners of this tournament while some errant shots of those that came close would linger long in their memories. The frustrations of the game were soon forgotten however as jokes were told among groups and the light-hearted nature of the tournament was soon felt by all.

As the golfers descended down the 18th fairway, wind blowing their moist golf shirts, the afternoon soon turned into a true get-together in the cool Cebu air. Anecdotes on the merits of the game were shared over cold drinks and warm food. The lovely and lively Joyce Jimenez awarded the tournament winners and the raffle winners as well. Huge trophies to commemorate a committed golfing display were given to the winners while the raffle winners were given top-end cellphones. From her broad, charming smile, to the way she cordially shook hands with each winner, Joyce epitomized the beauty that shone through the day.

The pictures here tell a much more vivid story of a day that brought together a significant group of golfers who shared a passion for the game. It more importantly treated a magnificent group of clients like only SMART could - like a good friend taken on a long-winded, challenging, and satisfying round of remarkable sporting pleasure. Golf, as always, was a good excuse to celebrate and have fun.

A shotgun start for everyone

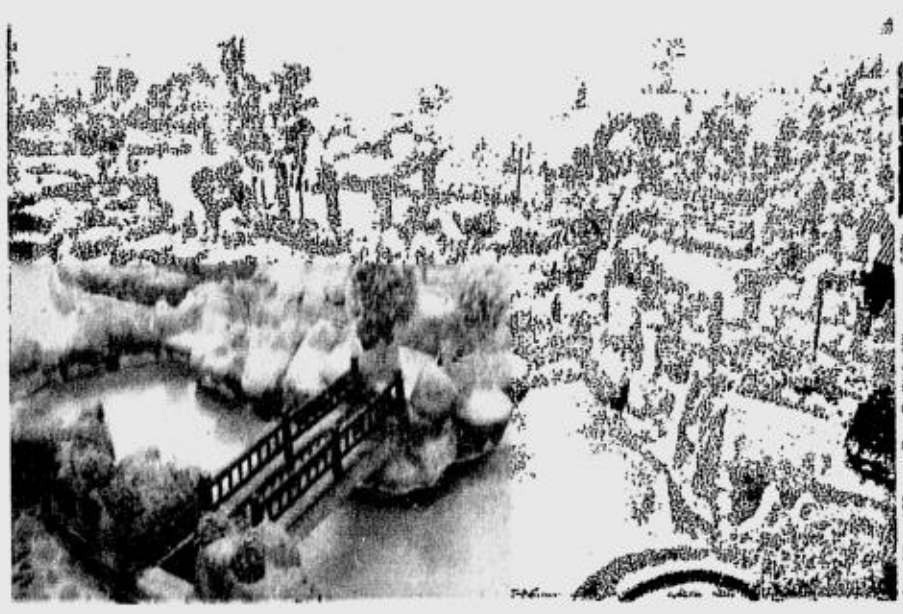


Trophies, anyone?

Posing with Joyce became the second tournament of the day

Joyce's smile was a warm welcome to the winner

The Club's picturesque facilities



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Businesswatch

By Ruel S. De vera

One for the Books

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Aeon Books' Marilou Gonzalez loves books so much, she opened a quaint, cozy bookstore of her own

No matter what job she was holding down at the time, Marilou Gonzalez would daydream about the job of her dreams: a bookstore all her own. Ever since she was young, all Gonzalez could think about was books, books, books. How perfect it would be if she could just be around them for the rest of her life, she thought.

Now lots of people like books with a passion, but not many are like this lady. Her parents, physician mother Soledad Consing and her late father, Judge Antonio Consing, only read what was needed for their jobs. Her siblings didn't read much either. "I'm really an aberration." She was a precocious reader even during her grade school and high school days at Assumption, collecting and reading as much as she could. "I was so in love with Ayn Rand's work when I was in grade seven," Gonzalez says. "Another of the first books I really liked then was Alexander Solzhenitsyn's 'The Gulag Archipelago.'" Whatever is an otherwise normal teenager doing reading about Objectivism and Stalin-era labor camps? "I have no idea why, I was just attracted to those books."

It was during those days that Gonzalez began building the impressive collection of personal titles she maintains to this day. "I'm not really sure how many, but my books fill two rooms at home, so easily hundreds." Whenever someone would leave for another country, Gonzalez made sure that they would bring back books for her. "There really weren't a lot of choices available here back then."

After finishing her college degree at the Ateneo, Gonzalez left for the United States to work on her Master's degree in Communication at San Diego State University. She was still in school when the Marcoses were toppled from power in the popular Edsa uprising in 1986. "I was sorry that I missed that, so I made the Edsa revolution the topic of my thesis." Returning from the States with degree in hand, Gonzalez worked for various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the intervening years.

Most notably, she worked for the Ayala Museum and the Ayala Foundation before becoming the local representative for the London-based NGO Resource Alliance. But she never closed the chapter on her dream of opening a bookstore. In the meantime, many new bookstores opened here, accompanied by the requisite expansion of choices. That, along with the rise of Amazon.com, gave Gonzalez more opportunities to enjoy new books.

Beyond just experiencing the books, Gonzalez wanted to deal in the books themselves. "I've always wanted to work in books so I dreamed of having a bookstore as a retirement job, something I would do when the time came for me to work for myself and not for other people."

Last year, she decided to take the leap, resigning from Resource Alliance and just going for it. Beginning in December 2002, she applied her typical intensity and detail-oriented personality to the task at hand. After all, she was always the type to

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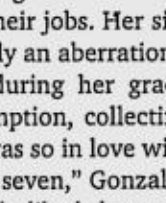
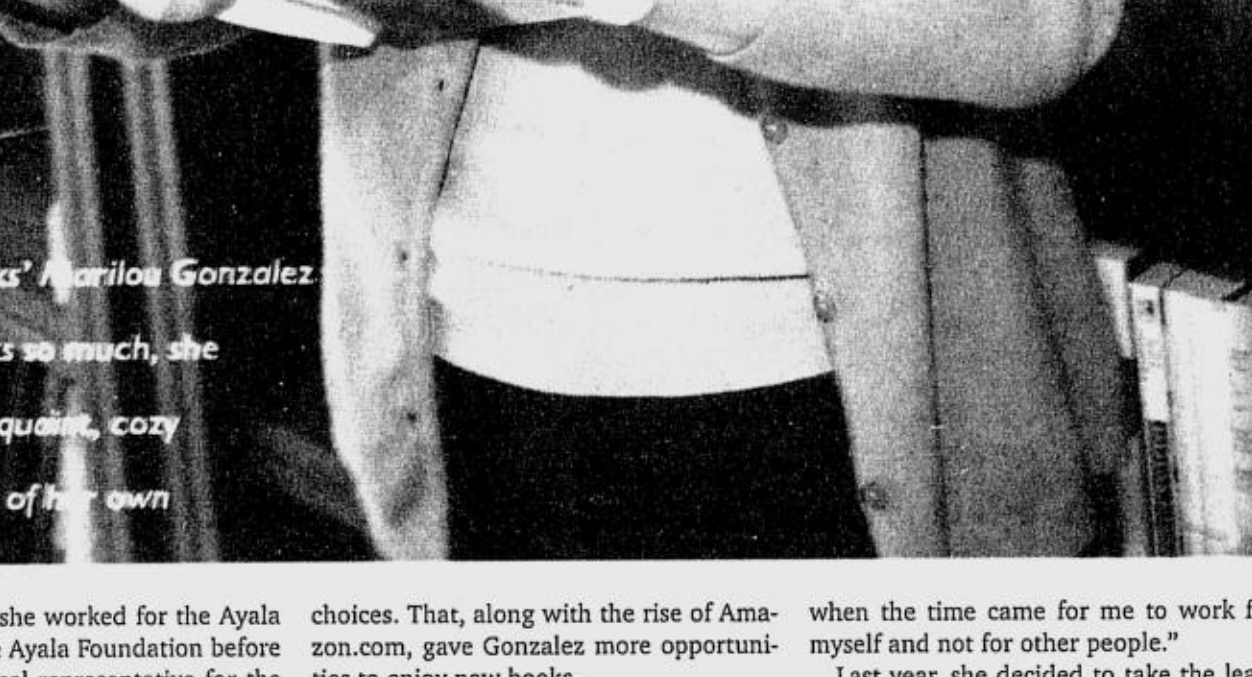
The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia



The Geography of Intimacy

Literary stars as well as beginners, mid-career bards, students and readers came together to celebrate a literary art often ignored by mainstream critics



NOEL SHAW

An esteemed panel of Asian-American poets

NEW YORK—In a Bush-whacked (and grimly wacky) planet, a lot of people here probably think a poetry festival is the last thing we would want. Or need. This is, after all, a city where poets are so plentiful that, as the Spanish writer Quevedo once noted, if they could fly we would not be able to glimpse the sun.

Well, if the just concluded all Asian-American poetry festival "Intimacy and Geography"—the first ever in New York—was any indication, they were wrong. From the opening night event, where 10 poets each paid homage to a poet he or she particularly admired by reading a work by that poet, to the closing night's performance/party two nights later, attendance went far beyond what the organizers had expected, though in truth the organizers had no idea of what to expect.

Indeed, this festival broke new ground for the nonprofit Asian American Writers Workshop, the main organizer. (In the interest of full disclosure, I sit on the Workshop's board.) Over the past 12 years the AAWW has served as a venue for readings and panels, put together literary caravans—under its sponsorship writers trek to college campuses to give readings—and run a bookstore that is likely the country's largest in terms of Asian-American publications. Nevertheless, the Workshop had never until now attempted a literary event of this scale.

Fortunate enough to have secured major funding at a time when funding for the arts, never overwhelming to begin with, has become truly meager, the Workshop brought in poets from as far as Hawaii and as close as New Jersey. Literary stars as well as beginners, mid-career bards, students, and just as important, readers came together to celebrate a literary art often ignored by mainstream critics. (And even then when they do turn their somewhat reluctant gaze on poets, it rarely falls on those of color.) An easy camaraderie, a delightful bonhomie, and an ubiquitously expressed surprise that so many had come to the feast, pervaded the goings-on.

The festival was yet another indication, if any was needed, that literary Asian America has not so much shifted as expanded, with both coasts, Hawaii and points in between, as sources of literary production. It no longer makes sense to think of the West Coast as the center of Asian American literature—a long-held perception that I believe has always been driven by a conventional reading of literary history (but that is a topic for another time). The raison d'etre of the festival, if any were to be found, lay in its title. Intimacy, as the festival allowed the audience a window into how poets dealt with a whole host of personal issues. Geography, for the poets came from different regions of the land and, more importantly, the metaphorical (at times allegorical) terrain each writer inhabited was one built up, from the accretions of a life and from larger social and political circumstances. Through panels, poets held forth on, among other subjects, their source or sources of inspiration; hot-button topics as gender, sexuality, and race, and what translation and being borderless meant to their work.

Other than two marathon readings, the festival also featured a series of one-on-one interviews, termed "Poet Squared," where the spotlighted bard, in conversation with a selected discussant, let us in, even if briefly into their lives. Thus, Li Young Lee, based in Chicago, recalled how his minister/father was a huge force in his life; Lawson Inada, from Colorado, talked about the internment of his Japanese-American family during World War II; Honolulu-based Lois-Ann Yamanaka described the process of self-acceptance and the use of pidgin, and Arthur Sze, a teacher in New Mexico, discussed, in part, his translations of Chinese classical poetry. No academic papers, thank God, were presented, no obfuscatory jargon dulled our senses or vitiated our desire for poetry. Talk was acute, straightforward, passionate and witty.

The festival proved doubly pleasurable for me. It was a delight to be with other Filipino and Filipino-American poets, with one's peers and friends, to hang out with worthies such as Eric Gamalinda, Eugene Gloria, and Patrick Rosal, with a whole bunch of other, younger, Filipino-American poets, among them Sarah Gambito, Joseph Legaspi, Paolo Javier, and Oliver de la Paz. The last four, by the way, have formed Kundiman, a literary group that intends to be a catalyst in Filipino-American literature. We were all there to claim the contemporary poetic landscape as our very own, to put the stamp of our intimacy, as it were, on an ever-shifting map.

Gambito says she was "thrilled to attend" the festival, and that "to be able to hear such different Asian American poetic voices in terms of experience and style, was, for me, an unforgettable experience."

Gloria, whose "Drivers at a Short-Time Motel" won the National Poetry Series a couple of years ago, put it very well when he proclaimed that "Asian America is alive and kicking. The poetry and energy from twentysomething poets was inspiring. I went home to Indiana, knowing I have a home everywhere."

Indeed, in the diaspora, perhaps the only true home for Filipino writers lies in the words we build, repositories of who we are and what we hold dear, that we bring wherever we may be, to render the space we inhabit a place at once sacred and mundane.

Art

Carlos, a solo exhibit of paintings and sculptures by Carlos Rocha, from Nov. 23 to Dec. 7 at R1 Lifestyles Wing, Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

Guardians and Ancestors, an exhibit-sale of Philippine tribal art like the Ifugao rice god or bulol, ritual and utilitarian objects from the Cordilleras such as bowls, baskets, ritual boxes, textiles and adornment selected by gallery owner and collector Floy Quintos, Nov. 29 at Gallery Deus, 1413 A. Mabini, near the corner of Santa Monica Street, Malate, Manila. For invitations, call 524-5053.

"Peeping Angel" by José Santos III, on view at the Boston Gallery

Perspectives, recent paintings by José Santos III at Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St., Cubao, Quezon City until Dec. 4.

Evangelista, first one-man exhibit of mixed media on canvas by Jes Evangelista, until Dec. Dec. 3 at Crateri Caffe Lounge along Tomas Morato Avenue.

Over the Volcano II, a multimedia exhibit featuring artists of the Center for Bikol Arts Foundation Inc., until Dec. 12 at Alliance Total Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

Music

Gary V celebrates his 20th year in showbiz with a two-night concert, **XXTREME**, at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 28 and 29. Gary will also launch the Gary V Coffee-Table Book, a music book of his songs arranged by classical pianist Raul Sunico, and the new Gary V website.

Gary V marks two decades in entertainment at the Big Dome

Join the Clarion Chamber Ensemble on Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m. at the PhilamLife Theater, UN Avenue, Manila for its year-end concert **Colorful Europe**. The highlight of the program is the brilliant "Schumann Piano Quintet in E-Flat" featuring a solo ensemble which includes Hyun Joo Lee, piano; Lisa Lopez, violin; Donald Kidd, viola, and the PPO's own, cellist Renato Lucas. Tickets available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610) and at the gates. For inquiries, call 631-9367 and 844-4172.

Onstage

Ballet Philippines is bringing back the best-loved Christmas classic, **The Nutcracker**. Based on the original libretto by Marius Petipa in 1891, Edna Vida's remake is set in 1920s Manila and celebrates Filipino values and culture like the *pagmamano* and a grand family get-together at the *noche buena*, preceded by the grand *rigodon de* Manila. "The Nutcracker" opens on Dec. 5 with a gala at 8 p.m. It will run daily (except Mondays) until Dec. 16 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. For ticket reservations, call 551-1003 or 832-6011.

Atbp

There will be a **Glimpse into Zen seminar** to be held on Nov. 29, 3-6 p.m. at 6241 Palma Street corner Manalac Street, Makati, Metro Manila near Rockwell Center. The seminar is in preparation for an eight-part orientation workshop on Dec. 4 at the same venue. Both the seminar and the workshop are free of charge. Participants in the workshop are requested to read the first two chapters of the book "Teaching Zen to Christians," 3rd ed. by Sister Elaine MacInnes, O.L.M. (Our Lady's Missionaries, a Canadian Catholic missionary community) prior to the first session. For details, call Rollie del Rosario at 632-5882 (office), 253-0235 (home).

The second **Nude Photography Workshop** conducted by Al Dimalanta will be held at Focus Point Studio, 911 Timog St., Barangka Drive, Makati-Mandaluyong, on Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Learn the art and technique of capturing the female form. Class fee is P1,000. Limited slots only. For inquiries, contact Leo Castillo at leocast@yahoo.com or 0917-9580818.

Christmas gifts such as corporate or individual gift certificates, prepaid packages and gift items like Proud Mary & Kate Torralba bags, Cereo Candles, Powerbooks bestsellers and Kish items are available at Urban Spa Level 5, Shangri-La Mall. Call 687-6195 to 96 for details or visit www.urbanspa-phil.com.

The **Ateneo High School Class of 1978** and other Jubilarians would like to invite all Ateneans, families and friends to a **grand alumni homecoming** on Dec. 6, starting at 6 p.m. at the Ateneo High School covered courts titled "The Night the Blues Rock" featuring Spirit of '67 and Rage. Special numbers from RJ 'n Friends, Color It Red, Wally Gonzales and friends, Nyoy Volante with Mannos, and many others. Entrance tickets at P100 are now available at the Ateneo Alumni Affairs Office. For particulars, call Jeng at 426-6081/82.

The **First International Consumers Bazaar** opens its doors to the public on Dec. 5 to Jan. 5, 2004 at the Casino Filipino grounds in Parañaque beside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Expected to participate in the month-long bazaar are 160 foreign and local manufacturing companies, exporters, importers and retailers. Gift packs will be given daily to lucky customers. Slots are still available for interested participants. For details, call the bazaar secretariat at 873-1511 or 817-5107.

Starting Your Own Preschool/Child Care Center seminar to be held on Nov. 29 and 30 at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Limited slots available. Reservations accepted until Nov. 28. For details, call 823-2615 or text 0919-8270776.

Hands-On Introductory Course on Polyester Resin (figurine making, fiberglass, stained glass, lamination, encapsulation and synthetic granite) to be held on Dec. 4-6. For inquiries, call Polymer Products at 671-9837.

The **Alcove Photo Gallery** is calling all interested photographers, amateur and professional, to submit **proposals for exhibition** next year. Camera Clubs are also encouraged to join. Requirements as follows: 1) Artist's resumé/biodata or organizational background for photography-related organizations; 2) Sample works; 3) Preferred exhibition schedule; 4) Brief outline and concept of the proposed exhibit; 5) Contact number and address. Proposals must be addressed to The Screening Committee, The Alcove Photo Gallery, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. For details, call 892-1801.

Ballet Philippines stages "The Nutcracker" at the CCP Main Theater

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

By Jess Abrera

F4 Hairdo

X-manila

Capitol University, together with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Philippine Madrigal Singers, present various Mindanaoan choral groups in a choral festival concert for peace dubbed as **Singing Mindanao Madz et. al.** on Dec. 2 and 3, 6:30 p.m., at the Capitol University Gymnatorium, Cagayan de Oro City. The event will be feature a repertoire of Filipino songs, regional anthem, sacred music and winning pieces of the Madrigals. Highlight of the concert will be the performance of "Tagumpay ng Lahi" where more than 1,500 singers sing as one, in a dramatic rendition of the "Prayer of St. Francis."

Sungdu-an **3: Making the Local**, the national traveling exhibit of Philippine contemporary visual art, rounds up its four-region exhibit with the Mindanao exhibit "Lambigit" at the 4th level Bridgeway of the Gaisano City Mall along C.M. Recto Avenue in Cagayan de Oro City. The exhibit is open for public viewing during mall hours daily until Dec. 7.

Calling all **Grade School Batch 66 and High School Batch 70 of Holy Family Academy** in Angeles City, Pampanga. There will be a **grand homecoming** on Jan. 24, 2004 in Angeles City. Please contact Raquel Suaco-Mendoza at 426-8558 and 426-1556.

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

The Girlfriend Who Cheats

I know that, given another chance to make our relationship work, she will cheat on me again. But I am willing to take the risk

Dear Joe,

It's been almost three weeks since my girlfriend of five months and I parted ways. This started when I introduced her to my best friend when she was then looking for a thesis adviser. A couple of days after, I noticed that she was texting and calling me less often. I had a hunch that something was going on between my best friend and my ex so I asked him what was bothering her. He said that the mother of my ex had noticed that she was seeing somebody else, and that he didn't want to be biased about the whole thing. It proved my hunch was right, but I had hoped that my ex would be honest enough to tell me the truth.

My best friend later texted and asked to meet me. It was then that he confessed that he and my ex had gone out several times. My ex, he said, wanted to be with him although she knew he was already committed to someone else. He told me everything: how special he has been to her, how she told him not to think of me or his girlfriend when they were at the movies, and so on.

When I got home, I texted my ex and asked her to stop seeing my best friend because he was not about to let anyone come between him and his girlfriend. But I know my best friend was also at fault here. He could have turned her down right from the start, but he didn't.

When I asked my ex if she was having an affair with my best friend, she said it was never her intention to fall for him. Her classmates told me the following day how excited she was every time my best friend texted or called her. They got mad at her for that.

I tried wooing her back, but she just ignored me. Then on her birthday, she texted me and said we could be friends again. She asked me to go with her to the mall and I agreed. There, she apologized for what happened. I wanted to ask how she could do this to me, but I was dumbfounded. I didn't want to argue with her since we had just agreed to be friends.

I must admit I still love her although our friends say she is not worth it. I told them it's fine with me, since I'm still hoping that she would realize that we could still be friends.

After some time, everything was fine. It made me hope that one day we could still make things work. Then she met a couple of guys at a school event and I was out of the picture again.

What I hate most is that I still long for her, no matter how much she ignores me. I can proudly say that during our relationship, I've never cheated. I know I should hate her for what she's doing to me, but I just can't. I still text her, assuring her that I am always here for her no matter what.

I know that given another chance to make our relationship work, she would cheat on me again. But I am willing to take the risk. Who knows? She might change. Should I still try to win her back despite the risk of getting hurt again? Or should I just forget her and try to move on with my life, hoping that one day someone will come along and treat me better?

Jeffrey

Dear Jeffrey,

It has been said that when a person you love hurts you seven times, you have to forgive them 77 times. It may sound exaggerated, but that is the way love really is. If we truly love a person, the gravity of his or her offense wouldn't matter because we will still accept that person no matter how much pain his or her actions have brought us.

You were right about your best friend. Had he not entertained your girlfriend beyond that which is expected of him, an affair wouldn't have blossomed. But had it not been your best friend, your girlfriend would have fallen for someone else.

Still, you never lose hope that someday you could be together again. Jeffrey, I don't see anything wrong in that. I know that your love is just so encompassing that you are able to understand her wrongdoings and accept her greatest frailties. I know you really love her but we have to realize that the love and dedication of just one person aren't enough to keep a relationship. Even if you love your girlfriend with all your heart, your relationship will not grow if she doesn't commit to you the same love and dedication that you have unfailingly given her.

Jeffrey, sometimes setting someone free is the only way to prove our love for that person. Only when your girlfriend is no longer bound by her commitment to you can you truly tell if she still loves you. Jeffrey, let her go and give yourself the chance to start over again. Let us always remember that there is nothing wrong in loving a person with all our heart. But, when we allow ourselves to be stuck in the past because of someone who doesn't love us anymore, then we're bound to miss the opportunity of finding another person who will love us the way we should be loved, and can truly make us happy.

One

...from page 6

give her all whenever she got into anything—and then some. In August, 2003, she did it. Aeon Books was born. Yes, it took her only nine months to have her dream spring fully-formed from her head.

Located near Ateneo's gate three, Aeon Books is a small shrine to bibliophiles in the middle of a car-choked neighborhood. The wooden shelves give off a comforting vibe, as if you were back in a childhood library. And of course all the books, all notably open and available for browsing. "I don't like sealed books," the 44-year-old Gonzalez says. "When I'm at a bookstore and one of the books I'm looking at is wrapped, I just tear the plastic off." There are no cookies, no coffee, no paper clips. Just books.

Aeon Books' selection is quite eclectic, veering away from mass market titles. "I try to look for titles which are different or back-listed by the other bookstores. I like literary fiction, so we carry a lot of that. I'm still willing to believe there's a market out there because these are the titles I want to carry. I really don't see myself as a businessman. I consider myself a bookseller." she says.

Thus Aeon Books stocks both foreign and local books, with fresh titles and some well-selected bargain books as well. Among her best-sellers are books by poets ranging from as current American Poet Laureate Billy Collins to Argentine poet Jorge Luis Borges. Not exactly your usual bookstore, indeed.

"What has surprised me is that business has been quite steady since we started," she says. "Students, teachers, writers and, actually, a lot of young poets come here. I really appreciate them coming here." Along those lines, Gonzalez is quite focused on what she wants to do here. "I don't think you can get rich in the book business. I just want to make the store self-sustaining."

Married for 13 years to businessman Danny Gonzalez, she of course reads as much as she can—when she has the time. "I thought that, having a book store, I would be able to read more," she says with a laugh. "But all I read these days are catalogs." And though she's a bookworm through and through, she does enjoy a few other things like music and the company of her nine beloved dogs. "I guess I really like solitary pursuits."

But there's nothing she looks forward to these days more than waking to the thought of going to her own bookshop. She goes to work, mind full of titles she still wants to carry, eager to connect with her customers for even more ideas. Yet when she looks at Aeon Books, it's a picture-perfect likeness of the bookstore she's been carrying in her head all this time.

"In a past life, I was probably a librarian," she says. Now, she dreams a new dream, of spending the rest of her life surrounded by the books she loves and selling them to other people as the precious items they are to her. Not for nothing then does the bookstore, thanks to a suggestion from Danny, take its name from the term for an indefinitely long period of time. It makes her think of infinity, she says. It leads the way to an infinity of reading opportunity. "This is it for me," Marilou Gonzalez says. "I wouldn't think of opening a store that carried anything else."

Aeon Books is located at Unit 108, Loyola Heights Condo, 23 Esteban Abada St. cor. dela Rosa St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 926-9406 or e-mail mdgonzales@pacific.net.ph.

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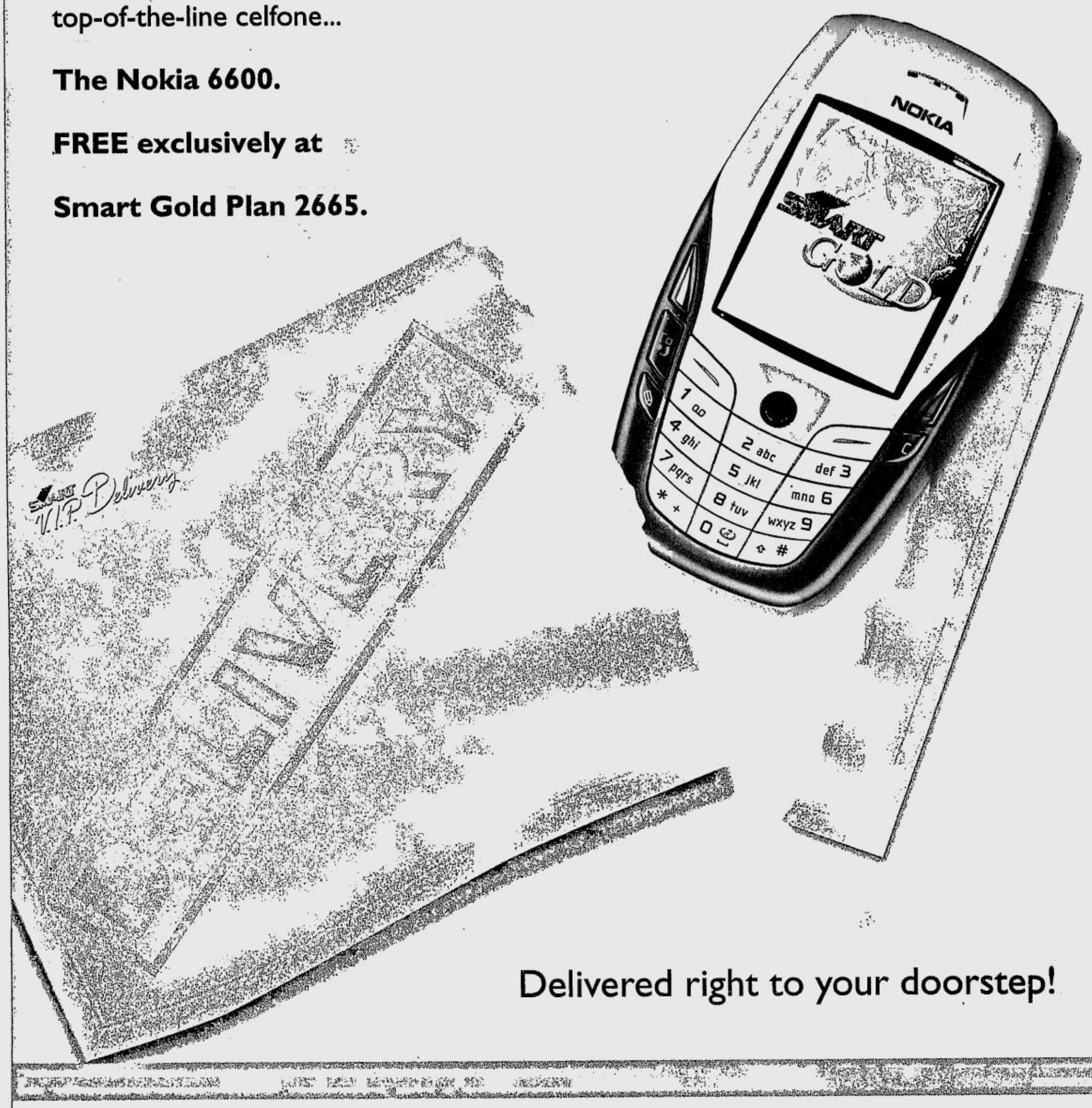

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